

# 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 2010 and Games Expo 2010
- ◆ Report from MidCon 2009

## Forthcoming Conventions

<b>BayCon 2010</b> Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 8-11 April 2010 <a href="http://www.baycon.co.uk">www.baycon.co.uk</a>	<b>Brighton DipCon I</b> Brighton Railway Club 4 Belmont Brighton 7-9 May 2010 <a href="http://www.dsct.co.uk">www.dsct.co.uk</a>	<b>Beer and Pretzels</b> The Town Hall Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire 15-16 May 2010 <a href="http://www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php">www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php</a>
<b>UK Games Expo</b> The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 4-6 June 2010 <a href="http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk">www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk</a>	<b>Summer StabCon</b> Britannia Hotel Stockport 2-4 July 2010 <a href="mailto:Bookings(at)stabcon.co.uk">Bookings(at)stabcon.co.uk</a>	<b>Manorcon XXVIII</b> Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 16-19 July 2010. <a href="http://www.manorcon.org.uk">www.manorcon.org.uk</a>
<b>WorldDipCon XX</b> The Hague Netherlands 20-22 August 2010	<b>EuroDipCon XXVII</b> Paris France 27-29 August 2010	<b>TringCon XIX</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 25 September 2010 <a href="http://www.fwtwr.com/tringcon">www.fwtwr.com/tringcon</a>
<b>MidCon XXXII</b> Thistle Birmingham City Hotel Birmingham 19-21 November 2010 <a href="http://www.midcon.org.uk">www.midcon.org.uk</a>		<b>Eastbourne Con</b> East Beach Hotel, Eastbourne 18-21 November 2010

ManorCon XXVII  
Stamford Hall, University of Leicester  
16-19th July 2010

Following on from last year's successful convention, ManorCon will once again be held at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester, in 2010. With no major problems in 2009, ManorCon should be very similar in 2010. We have the same hall, the same rooms in Stamford House, and the same accommodation. We even have the same people on the committee!

Running from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime, ManorCon will once again feature the Second Hand Game Sale on Friday and Saturday, and the UK SpielChamps on Saturday, where teams can qualify to represent the UK at the World Spielchamps in Germany in October. Dan Lester will be setting the Pop Quiz on Saturday evening, and hopefully this year, we'll be able to get the sound working without having to dismantle the University's PA system! The treasure hunt will once again be run on Sunday afternoon, by last year's winners - The Red Team, who promise it will be shorter than the 2008 edition, and much shorter than the 2009 edition! And of course, there will be more games than you can shake a stick at.

As well as the Spielchamps, there will be the usual tournaments, including Diplomacy, 18XX, Dominion, Puerto Rico, St Petersburg, Acquire, Race for the Galaxy and Midnight Party. However, we are dropping a couple of tournaments: Settlers - as the number of games has declined to the point where it's not worth holding, and Imperial, because some of the best players said they were purposely not playing competitive games because it's far better when playing for fun. So we will have a couple of slots for tournaments in any of the new games from Essen 2009 that prove to be popular - favourites right now include Brief History of the World, Power Grid: Factory Manager, and Shipyard. Once again there will be a Croquet tournament, and as seen in 2007, nothing - not even the wettest ManorCon in history - will stop it.

Cardiff Games will once again be running the games stall in 2010 (and hopefully this time, they won't be delayed by the dreaded lurgie on the Friday). As ever, they will be offering a 10% discount on all games, and if you have any special requests, they will try their hardest to bring them along. There will also be a Second Hand Games Stall that, as happened in the past, will be in a separate room, and will be open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

As in 2009, we have single and en-suite accommodation available on-site. However we will not have any twin accommodation available. For those of you who would prefer a twin (or double) room, we recommend either the Regency Hotel or the Belmont Hotel. Both are on the London Road, just inside the roundabout with the ringroad. We had people staying at both of these this year, and both got good feedback from our attendees.

There is of course a bar. After some advice from Paul Oakes about what is real Real Ale (as opposed to fake Real Ale?), we hope to have a better selection of Real Ales from the bar in 2010 than we did in 2009.

Included with this issue of QLA, 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 - 13th June 2010. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact us:

By post: Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK

By phone: ++44 (0)1234 405878

By e-mail: [info@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk)

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## **UK Games Expo 2010 (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](http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk)

Preparations for the 4th UK Games Expo, taking place in June 2010, are now well advanced. Expo will bring the best games of all types to our tables. Expo will run from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at its regular venue.

### **Dates and Times**

#### **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. For a small charge 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
2days	£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**

The winner of the Grand Board Game Tournament will carry away a £100 Voucher to spend at the JKLM stand or website. Individual tournament winners will receive £25 vouchers. The UK Games Expo Carcassonne championship is a qualifier for the World Carcassonne Championship at Essen in October 2010. The winner will be paid £100 towards travel costs. The main prize is the Carcassonne box sponsored by Board Game Extras.

The UK Games Expo Settlers of Catan championship is a qualifier for the World Settlers of Catan Championship in Germany in September 2010. Heron Games are kindly sponsoring your travel costs. The Agricola Tournament winner will receive a complete set of Mayday Games' deluxe Euro tokens, wooden farm animals, wooden family set along with a resource box. All this is kindly supplied by Board Game Extras.

### **Proposed Schedule**

Saturday: Agricola and Puerto Rico

Sunday morning: Carcassonne and St Petersburg

Sunday afternoon: Settlers of Catan and Factory Manager

### **Kniziathon**

Reiner Knizia is one of the worlds most prolific and talented Games Designers. He has produced hundreds of the best board games in the world. A Kniziathon is a special event where you can play these games. This year at UK Games Expo we will host a Kniziathon. Any visitor can join in from complete novices to seasoned players, there is no charge and you can play as many games or as few as you like. Your scores in the game go on a leader board for your chance to triumph overall!

Just turn up and play – it is as easy as that.

Playing in a Kniziathon is a great way to enjoy a variety of Reiner Knizia's games in one place at one time. There are lots of games to try - from classics to the most recent releases (and even some which you might never have come across before). There will be plenty of willing opponents and friendly organisers to help you with the rules. It's the perfect opportunity to meet games players

and enjoy exciting games - and if you are doing well, you might even win a prize!

### **UK Games Expo Children's Boardgame Tournament**

If you are aged 9 to 12 you can win some games by playing one or more rounds of the Children's tournament on Saturday 5th June. All children aged 9 to 12 can join in (no need to come as a team). Simply turn up before 10.30 on Saturday and ask to join in the Children's tournament. **Entry is free**. The tournament will be played in four rounds, each of 45 minutes with intervals between. No need to have learned the games in advance Nigel (our umpire) and his helpers will teach you how to play.

You can just play one round if that is all you have time for. If you want more information please email [richard@ukgamesexpo.co.uk](mailto:richard@ukgamesexpo.co.uk). Sponsors of the Children's Tournament are: Cubiko, Dice Maestro and Panic Games Ltd.

### **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.

### **New Games at UK Games Expo**

A number of new games will be on sale at Expo 2010. First up is "Workshop of the World" (Ragnar Brothers), hopefully launching is "Age of Industry" (Treefrog / Warfrog) as well as "Gettysburg" from the same company, JKLM Games will be presenting "Ascendancy" and "1860" (A game tracing the development of railways on the Isle of Wight), "Great Fire" may also be ready, this has been designed by Medusa Games, none other than one of our organisers, Richard Denning and published by JKLM. Coiledspring Games will be hosting the European release of Matt Leacock's new game "Forbidden Planet". Matt, you will know is the author of smash hit "Pandemic". Last but by no means least, the topical "Football World Cup Card Game" from Games for the World.

These are only some of the games set to be released in time for Expo 2010, visit the website for more details: [www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/newgames.php](http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/newgames.php)

**\*\*\* Stop Press \*\*\***

We have secured attendance at Expo 2010 of Tobias Stapelfeldt aka Glomeor of Eggertspiele. We will host the UK release at UK Games Expo of their new game "Speicherstadt" and we are very pleased that one of the company's main games editors Tobia Stapelfeldt will be demo-ing the game at Expo. Visit our guests' page for more details: [www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/guests.php](http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/guests.php).

### **Accommodation**

The Clarendon Suites do not have any accommodation. However, within an easy walk are a number

of hotels, catering for all budgets. The main convention hotel will again be The Menzies Strathallan, just 50 yards from the Expo venue; it is also the location for the “Open Play” games. We have also negotiated special rates at the Comfort Inn, 166 Hagley Road and our website (<http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/accommodation.php>) has details of further hotels within a short distance of the Clarendon Suite.

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

Another record-breaking year, with just over 164 people attending at some point during the convention! This is certainly the most delegates that have come to MidCon while I have been in charge, and I believe, for some time before that.

Certainly, it was the first time in many years that people were playing games in the lounge and bar areas because there was no space elsewhere, rather than from choice.

One consequence of the increased popularity was that the hotel formally ran out of rooms in early November, with the result that some people had to find accommodation elsewhere. We have requested more rooms for 2010, but this is one reason why we close booking through MidCon and refer you to the hotel from 1<sup>st</sup> November each year – it is too difficult for us and the hotel management to run a queue, although, as some people discovered, you can sometimes be lucky enough to get a room that falls available after a late cancellation.

We had Diplomacy back for the first time for a number of years, David ran it, and the results are below. Dan Lester ran an unusual, if slightly chaotic quiz, and John Harrington did his stuff with the second-hand games stall.

With no major problems reported, 2009 was a good year for Midcon.

*\*\*\* We have a grey coat/jacket that someone left behind... Contact us to claim it. \*\*\**

### **The MidCon Quiz (Dan Lester)**

This year's quiz was promised to feature a number of unusual and experimental affair: a notion immediately proved by the unofficial first round: Find The Questions Which The Quizmaster Has Bafflingly Mislaid.

Fittingly, this round was, after much kerfuffle, won by the team that ultimately prevailed, featuring Robin & Katy Walters, Simon Hornby, Mark Fox & Chris Martin. [None of us can recall its name. Ed.]

It was Mr Martin's astounding and relatively unchallenged ability to name all the Districts in Dominion that clinched the deal.

But special mention has to go to all the other teams for being just plain great, as usual.

### **Results of MidCon Diplomacy Tournament 2009**

David Norman ran the tournament using the (boo, hiss) C-Diplo scoring system (with 73 points for a solo).

The tournament system was: the sum of the two results, or 80% of the sum of three results.

1	Dan Lester	24.00		37.00	61.00	Best Ger
2	Dave Simpson		22.00	37.00	59.00	Best Rus
3	Steve Agg	49.00	1.00	9.50	47.60	Worst Eng, Best Ita, Best Tur
4	Graeme Murphy	1.00	50.00	1.00	41.60	=Worst Aus, Best Fra
5	David Wigglesworth	3.00	10.50	9.50	18.40	Best Eng, Worst Rus
6	Emeric Miszti	7.00	10.50		17.50	Worst Tur
7	Iain McLellan	15.00			15.00	Worst Fra
8	Mark Hancock		5.00	1.00	6.00	Best Aus
9	Andrew Havery	1.00	1.00	5.00	5.60	=Worst Aus, Worst Ger, Worst Ita

### Board Results for Round 1

Austria	Graeme Murphy	1904	1.00
England	David Wigglesworth	2	3.00
France	Iain McLellan	7	15.00
Germany	Dan Lester	9	24.00
Italy	Andrew Havery	1906	1.00
Russia	Emeric Miszti	6	7.00
Turkey	Steve Agg	10	49.00

### Board Results for Round 2

Austria	Andrew Havery	1904	1.00
England	Steve Agg	1905	1.00
France	Graeme Murphy	11	50.00
Germany	David Wigglesworth	6	10.50
Italy	Mark Hancock	4	5.00
Russia	Dave Simpson	7	22.00
Turkey	Emeric Miszti	6	10.50

### Board Results for Round 3

Austria	Mark Hancock	1906	1.00
England	Graeme Murphy	1906	1.00
France	Dan Lester	10	37.00
Germany	Andrew Havery	4	5.00
Italy	Steve Agg	5	9.50
Russia	David Wigglesworth	5	9.50
Turkey	Dave Simpson	10	37.00

### MidCon Bring & Buy Report (John Harrington)

There were 99 items put up for sale in the Bring & Buy sale at MidCon, of which 41 were sold. The most expensive of these was Agricola.

In total, £346.20 officially changed hands, though there were one or two transactions that took place privately in after hours trading.

Fourteen people put games up for sale, though six of them ended up taking all of their games home unsold.

I think I can safely say, without fear of contraception (sic), that the Bring & Buy worked a lot more smoothly this year. Partly this was because Chris Dawe did not bring along 192 games for sale but mainly it was because I had some stentorian assistance from Paul Oakes and Pete Card.

Not that I want to discourage the likes of Chris Dawe from bringing along 192 games, you understand, but I think that, in future, if anyone is going to bring along more than, say, 25 games, I'll need to arrange a special checking-in session just for them before the official sellers' opening time.

Other than that, there is not much to say. The room proved to be big enough to display everything without the need for games to be piled Jenga-like one on top of the other, and apart from a bottleneck in the doorway, was also big enough to allow people to mill about and peruse the games.

I think most of the games that were sold went in the first 15 minutes of the first session. There were a few games added for sale to the second session and a few late bargains were snapped up, but next year I may well shut up shop a bit earlier and get myself off to the restaurant a bit earlier on the Saturday night.

It was pleasing to see some old school hex based war games change hands, as in previous years these have often sat there unclaimed. Not a lot of joy this year for the bloke who brought along some collectible card game packs and I don't recall any FRP games for sale this year, either, but next year could be different.

**MidCon 2010 booking forms are now available. Please visit our website ([www.midcon.co.uk](http://www.midcon.co.uk)) for a copy, or email the editor.**

*MidCon 2011* (sic) is very likely to be moved to Derby. If you have any views on this, please let me or any other member of the committee know.

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## 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](mailto:david@ellought.demon.co.uk)

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

Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR

Telephone: 0870 190 1977 (Office) 01332-385322 (Home)

Email: [jeremy.d.tullett\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:jeremy.d.tullett(at)btinternet.com)