

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 44

Printed in Wiltshire

July 2013

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- **MidCon** 2013 Progress Report
- Manorcon Final Progress Report, and room chits

Forthcoming Conventions

Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 13 July 2013 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	Manorcon XXXI John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 2pm 19th July–2pm 22nd July 2013 info@manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk	Mindsports Olympiad University of London Union Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY 17-26 August 2013 http://www.msoworld.com
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXIV The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 28 September 2013 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXVII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 28 September 2013 Keith Thomasson: tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	MidCon 2013 The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2013 MidCon.org.uk
Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 16 November 2013 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	Essex Games Day Writtle Village Hall The Green Writtle Chelmsford 9 December 2013 www.sorcon.co.uk	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXV The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 28 December 2013 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXVI The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 22 March 2014 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXVIII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 5 April 2014 Keith Thomasson: tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	BayCon Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 24-27 April 2014 www.baycon.co.uk
Manorcon XXXII John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 2pm 18th July–2pm 21st July 2014 info@manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk	Free Games Days (Burton) Spirit Games 102 High Street Burton on Trent DE14 1LJ Every 2 nd Sunday from 14 April 2013 12:00-22:30	Derby on Board Games Bean Caffe, Friar Gate Studios, Derby Last Wednesday of the month 17:30-22:30

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

So ... much pattering about here at Midland Place since the last issue. We had seven nights in Rhodes, followed by two nights in Athens, during which time I received a start date for my first permanent job in three years – the day after my return from holiday. Naturally I am pleased to be back on a regular salary, and my commuting time is about five minutes on foot from my front door to my desk.

So far so good. It is a friendly office, and my boss is also a new starter, which is an advantage. The person handing over to me is alleged to be desperate to do so, so why she is being quite so unhelpful about doing so is a bit of a mystery, but this interim period is intended to be short, so I just have to grin and bear it for a couple of weeks, and we'll be out of each other's way.

The office is in the former HQ building of the Midland Railway, although I understand that we'll be moving out by 2015. Apparently we are to be displaced by a faith school, which is, I assume, either willing to pay the landlord more than my employer, or has some other inside connection.

It is a good building for a school, but in a patently unsuitable location, and we look forward to fights breaking out between taxi drivers (who queue in the narrow street) and parents (who won't be able to turn around), as traffic circulation grinds to a halt.

A short issue this month, largely because the main contribution came in very close to the drop-dead date, and there's little time to expand on the basics if this is to land on mats before ManorCon.

MidCon 2013 (Jeremy Tullett)

Bookings have started to arrive, and I now have around half-a-dozen, which is about normal for June.

The bookings web site now carries details of MidCon for anyone wishing to book electronically, or you can post or email the form below to me.

As at least one reader appears to like his fish and chips at MidCon (and doesn't wish to pay £15 for the fancy version from the Hallmark bar), I can report that there is good chippie, which has opened recently, about 15 minutes' walk from the convention. Various notices keep popping up promising fish and chips nearer to the convention (well, not literally, our fame hasn't reached that level yet), but the promises are yet to be fulfilled.

Gamers will also notice that the station forecourt has been refurbished to the advantage of pedestrians and bus users, and to the bewilderment of car drivers, but this will have no effect on delegates, except to provide a slightly more even approach to the front door of the hotel.

MidCon 2013 Booking Form Registration Fee

£20 per person for the whole weekend, when booked before 1st November, £25 afterwards, and on the door. The day rates are £10/£15/£10 for Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Please note: convention fees are *not* refundable.

Our block booking is held until 12 October, so PLEASE BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

After October 12th, rooms will be open for sale to the open public, and so are likely to sell out. After 1st November 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.

Payment for the Registration Fee and for Accommodation

For the **registration fee** we accept payment by PayPal (visit www.MidCon.org.uk for details), sterling cheques (made out to "MidCon Convention"), cash, or transfer to "MidCon Convention", Lloyds TSB Colmore Row 30-00-03 03033129. Please provide your name and postcode as a reference with direct transfers. We *cannot* collect convention fees from credit cards.

Name(s)			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			
I enclose a sterling cheque (payable to "MidCon Convention") or I have made a bank transfer to MidCon (delete as appropriate) for £20 per registration (£25 after 1st November)			

Bed and breakfast prices per room per night

	Thu	Fri / Sat	Twins / doubles are available for single occupancy, at the full room rate. The convention closes 6pm Sunday, but anyone wishing to stay on Sunday night will get the Friday / Saturday room rate.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£64.00	£59.00	
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£78.00	£72.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	(£54.00)	£49.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	(£67.00)	£62.00	

Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on departure.

Accommodation deposits may be made when booking through the **MidCon** website, by supplying us with a credit card number and expiry date, or with a sterling cheque made out to the 'Hallmark Hotel', accompanied by this form.

The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated; please seek advice from a member of the **MidCon** committee if you have to cancel to minimise your financial exposure.

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 **here**:

Name on Card	16 Digit Card Number	Expiry date

- I enclose a sterling cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Hallmark Hotel".

HOTEL NAME? (Hotel / Inn)	Thursday	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 Convention") to: Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR

www.manorcon.org.uk
19th to 22nd July 2013
John Foster Hall, University of Leicester
Progress Report Number 2 - June 2013.

Welcome to Progress Report Number 2. ManorCon is fast approaching, so here are the final details you will need before you get there.

Don't forget your chit!

As in previous years, we are issuing chits to everyone who booked accommodation in advance and paid in full. If you've done both of these, you should find a chit enclosed with this Progress Report. **In a change from previous years, this year the University are handing out the keys for us, so you must take this chit with you to ManorCon and hand it in at the University's reception desk in John Foster Hall to receive your room key.** As long as you have your chit with you and do not need to change your booking, you only need to visit the ManorCon Registration Desk for your badge and a Programme Booklet. If you forget to take your chit with you, then you will have to queue at the Registration Desk for a new one. **Please note: your receipt CANNOT be exchanged for a room key, only your chit can.**

If there is no chit included with this mailing, this is probably for one of the following reasons: a) we think you owe us money; b) you are non-resident; c) we may have made a mistake; or d) you haven't booked... In any case, don't worry about it - just come to the ManorCon Registration Desk when you arrive. We will not be sending out any further chits before the convention.

NEWS

New Venue

After a number of years in Stamford Hall, ManorCon has re-located just across the road to John Foster Hall. John Foster Hall is directly opposite the entrance to Bowder Court (the en-suite accommodation we have been using). It offers us more gaming space (and room to expand), food and the bar all under one roof, and en-suite accommodation for all pre-booked delegates in adjacent buildings.

Gaming rooms

There are a number of gaming rooms. The main gaming hall is where the ad-hoc gaming will mostly take place. It's also where all the food will be served. There are also rooms for the Diplomacy, the Pop Quiz and Treasure Hunt, the Second Hand Games Stall, a quiet gaming room, and a couple of other general gaming rooms.

The gaming rooms will all be open from breakfast until the last person leaves the room.

Food and Drink

Tea and Coffee is available continuously from breakfast until 30 minutes after the evening meal stops serving. The bar will be open 2pm to 1am Friday, noon – 1am Saturday, noon to 1am Sunday and noon to 2pm Monday, but may close early if not doing much business. Note that due to the licensing laws you are not allowed to bring your own alcohol onto the site.

Other facilities

The convention is 10-15 minutes walk from Oadby centre. Oadby is a suburban centre on the outskirts of Leicester, which has a collection of shops, restaurants, etc. There is also a large Asda between the convention and Oadby. If Oadby does not provide all the facilities you are looking for, then it is about 3 miles from the convention to Leicester City Centre.

Games Stall

Milestone Games have the sole right to sell first-hand games at ManorCon, and anybody else wanting to do so must speak to the committee first. If you wish to pre-order any games for collection at ManorCon, then please contact them on 01455 636 286 or email sales@milestonegames.co.uk

Second Hand Games Sale

This is Sara Merritt (nee Ball)'s second year in charge of running the SHGS. Volunteers are always welcome to help out in the running of the SHGS; if you would like to help, please contact Sara at saraljpx@gmail.com. Sellers can book games in between 5pm and 7pm Friday and 11am and 1pm Saturday along with a completed Second Hand Games Sale Form; this form can be printed off from the link on the ManorCon website: www.manorcon.org.uk. Selling sessions will be Friday 7.30pm to 9pm and Saturday 2pm to 3pm with pack up by sellers by 4pm Saturday. All games must be collected by 6pm Saturday.

Treasure Hunt

This year's treasure hunt will be run by last year's winners - or more accurately, those members of last year's winning team who are going to be there this year. It will be held on Sunday afternoon in the bar area.

Closing time....

The convention finishes at 2pm on Monday.

Full directions and a map appear at the end of this progress report, but meanwhile...

Address and Phone Number

The full address is John Foster Hall, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2LG. Telephone (0116) 223 1493. If you need to contact one of the committee, the ManorCon mobile number is 0797 713 6609 (or +44 797 713 6609 from outside the UK). This can also be used if you want to contact someone who isn't on the committee, but only in an emergency, and only if we can find them... PLEASE do not use this number before the Thursday morning of ManorCon! If you need to contact us beforehand, please phone Steve Jones (01234-405878), or drop us a

letter, or email info@manorcon.org.uk

Parking

On arrival at John Foster Hall, if you have a large volume of games to unload, we will have a few spaces outside the main entrance reserved for unloading only. You are welcome to use these while you unload, but please then move your car elsewhere.

John Foster has a deceptively large amount of parking available – around 65 spaces in total – but these are all in bays, which take a few cars each. You are welcome to park in any marked bay on the site, but it may take a little driving around to find an empty space. There should be car-parking attendants on duty to help you.

If the spaces are all full, then you can also park in any other Leicester University Car Park, including Bowder Court (where the en-suites were last year) and Gilbert Murray (which is also just across the road). Please do not park on the road, as while it does not have parking restrictions, the University is required to keep their delegates from parking on the road.

When you arrive....

The ManorCon Registration Desk will be located just inside the entrance to the dining hall. If you are not staying in the University and do not owe us any money, simply collect your badge and programme booklet from the table near the ManorCon Registration Desk. If you have booked accommodation in advance, do not need to make any changes to your booking, and have your chit with you, simply report to John Foster reception to pick up your room key, and then collect your badge and programme booklet from the ManorCon Reception Desk. ALL room keys are to be collected from John Foster reception.

If you want to make changes to your booked accommodation, or if you still owe us money, or if you have forgotten your chit, you will need to report to the ManorCon Registration Desk first.

Anyone who has not pre-booked will also need to go to the ManorCon Registration Desk. We will have plenty of rooms available on the door, although they may not all be as close to the main hall as the pre-booked rooms. Once you have registered with us, we will issue you with a chit to be exchanged for your room key. We will also sort out your name badge, any money owing, etc.

Please try to arrange your transport so as not to arrive before ManorCon opens at 2pm on Friday. If you are on public transport and you will be arriving early because that is what the timetable says, or the drive is quicker than you think and you do end up arriving early, you will be able to drop your bags off, but you will not be able to get into the gaming hall. You are welcome to arrive at any time after 2pm on Friday, although if it is after 11pm, the ManorCon Registration Desk may be closed.

Late Arrivals and Changes of Plan

If you plan to arrive on the Friday evening after 11pm, or have transport difficulties and end up arriving late, please let us know. Ring the ManorCon mobile on 0797 713 6609. If you haven't pre-booked accommodation but subsequently decide that you do want to stay over, please let us know (either via the ManorCon Registration Desk if open, otherwise track down the committee member on duty) before 11pm on the night in question, as we will have difficulties finding extra rooms after this point.

And when you leave.....

PLEASE NOTE: you must vacate your room and return your key by 9:30am on the day of your departure. All room keys should be returned to John Foster reception.

Tournaments

Most of the tournaments at ManorCon are Ad-hoc. Just play a game when you want, and put the results in the envelope. We anticipate ad-hoc tournaments for 18XX, Dominion, Puerto Rico, St Petersburg and 7 Wonders. The non-Ad-hoc tournaments are as follows:

Diplomacy, for which you need to sign up by 5.30pm on Friday to play in round 1. For the Saturday round, please sign up by 9.30am on Saturday. The Sunday round starts at 10am. For full details, please see the programme booklet. Prize giving should be completed by 7pm on Sunday. Up to date information will be posted on the Diplomacy notice board.

Croquet is a four round knock-out tournament. Entries can be made up until breakfast on the Saturday morning, at which point the draw will be done. Advance entries are welcomed for those who will not be arriving at ManorCon before Saturday morning; contact Steve Jones via the ManorCon email address, info@manorcon.org.uk. The draw will be posted on the general notice board.

Midnight Party will as usual be run at midnight each night.

Pop Quiz: The pop quiz will as usual be run in the bar area on Saturday night.

Programme Booklet

When you arrive at ManorCon, don't forget to pick up your programme booklet and look through it. It will contain all sorts of useful information such as maps of the building and surrounding area plus directions to the nearest shops, ATMs and restaurants, instructions for finding a committee member, what to do if you have a problem, opening hours of the bar and the canteen, details of the tournaments, and lots more. Be warned that committee members sometimes get exasperated with people who ask them questions for which the answers are in the programme booklet! The Programme Booklet should be available on the website in advance. – www.manorcon.org.uk

Directions.... or how to make sure you find us

Public transport directions first:

By air

The nearest airport is East Midlands Airport (www.eastmidlandsairport.com), which has flights to various European destinations and other parts of the UK.

Other relatively convenient airports served by low-cost airlines are London Stansted (www.stansted-airport-guide.co.uk/) and Luton (<http://www.luton-airport-guide.co.uk/>).

Intercontinental travellers are likely to have to use Birmingham International, London Gatwick or London Heathrow.

The following sections describe how to get to Leicester (either to the main railway station or to the bus station). Once there follow the instructions below for getting from the city centre to John Foster Hall.

By air, from Birmingham International Airport

Take the free Air-Rail Link to the Birmingham International station - it only takes a couple of minutes. Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take any train to Birmingham New Street (frequent). Change there and take a CrossCountry train to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 1h 20m. Alternatively take the scheduled bus service to Coleshill Parkway and change there onto the CrossCountry train to Leicester. The total journey time is about 1h 10m.

By air, from East Midlands Airport

Take the Leicester Skylink bus from the airport to Leicester City Centre (hourly during the day, every other hour in the evening; for timetable see www.skylink.co.uk). The journey time is under an hour.

Alternatively take the Loughborough Skylink bus from the airport to Loughborough station (half-hourly during the day, hourly in the evening; for timetable see www.skylink.co.uk) and then any train from there to Leicester (at least two per hour). The bus journey time from the airport to Loughborough station is about 30 minutes, the train journey time from there to Leicester about 15 minutes.

By air, from London Gatwick

Follow the signs in the airport to the station (if you have arrived at the North Terminal, this will involve using the transit to the South Terminal).

Buy a ticket to Leicester, specifying that you will NOT be travelling on the Gatwick Express service. Take a First Capital Connect train to London St Pancras (every 30 minutes). From there take an East Midlands Trains train to Leicester (every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 20m. Alternatively continue on the First Capital Connect train to Luton or Luton Airport Parkway and change onto the East Midlands Trains train there. This avoids the short walk between the subsurface and

overground parts of London St Pancras station, but there is only one train to Leicester per hour from each of Luton and Luton Airport Parkway, so you must find out which station it is correct to change at.

By air, from London Heathrow

Follow the signs in the airport to the station. There are three stations - one for Terminal 4, one for Terminal 5 and one for Terminals 1, 2 and 3. The following instructions are valid for all the stations.

Buy an Underground ticket to Zone 1, take the Piccadilly Line from Heathrow to St Pancras (frequent), and then buy a rail ticket to Leicester and take an East Midlands Trains train from London St Pancras to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 30m.

Alternatively - this is a more expensive option - buy a ticket to Leicester valid for use on Heathrow Express services (this will cover both parts of the train journey and also the cross-London transfer on the Circle Line). Take the Heathrow Express train to London Paddington (every 15 minutes). Then take the Circle Line to Kings Cross St Pancras (frequent), and then an East Midlands Trains train from London St Pancras to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 20m.

By air, via London Stansted Airport

Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take a direct Central Trains train to Leicester (hourly). The journey time is about 2h 30m.

By air, via Luton Airport

Take the free shuttle bus to Luton Airport Parkway station - it's only just over a mile. Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take a direct East Midlands Trains train to Leicester (hourly). The journey time is about an hour.

By coach

Though not always as fast as trains, coaches provide direct and cheap links between Leicester (St Margaret's Bus Station) and many other cities. Find out more information on bus routes operated by National Express. www.nationalexpress.com
Booking line on: 08717 818181. Disabled Persons Travel Helpline: 08717 818179.
Textphone: 0121 455 0086.

By train

Details of train times can be found on www.nationalrail.co.uk.

The following paragraphs describe how to get to Leicester from various parts of the UK. Once there follow the instructions below for getting from the city centre to John Foster Hall.

There are direct East Midlands Trains services from Derby, London St Pancras (Eurostar services from Paris and Brussels arrive here), Nottingham and Sheffield.

There are direct CrossCountry services from Birmingham New Street, Cambridge,

Nuneaton and Peterborough.

From much of the South and South East it will be quickest to travel via London, using the Underground to cross London from the relevant rail terminus to St Pancras (though walking between Euston and St Pancras is also an option if you are lightly loaded). If, however, you have a direct service to Cambridge or Peterborough, it might be quicker to go that route.

From stations such as Brighton and East Croydon that are served by First Capital Direct services, the cross-London journey on the Underground can be avoided by taking one of their trains to St Pancras.

From the South West a CrossCountry service to Birmingham New Street and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester is likely to be the best route. Travelling via Birmingham New Street will probably also be the best route from South and mid Wales.

From North Wales, the North West and parts of Scotland travelling via Birmingham New Street might be the best option, but if you have a direct service to Nuneaton, it's likely to be quicker to change there.

From the North East and parts of Scotland the best options are likely to be either a CrossCountry service to Sheffield and then an East Midlands Trains service from there to Leicester, or an East Coast Trains service to Peterborough and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester.

From the city centre

The easiest way to get to John Foster Hall is by taxi or by bus.

The 31/31A bus service stops immediately in front of the railway station and runs at frequent intervals. The correct stop for the university campus is just before the Asda at Oadby, soon after the junction with the A563 Ring Road (which is also where the racecourse is). You can't see Asda from where you stop so watch for the ring road & racecourse junction. From here it's a 10-15 minute walk up Stoughton Drive South and then right along Manor Road to John Foster Hall.

There are taxi ranks at both the bus station and the railway station.

Useful information

Up to date travel information can be found in a number of places. As most of you will know, road information is available online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/travelnews/> Useful websites for public transport information are www.arriva.co.uk, <http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/>, and <http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/eastmidlands/leicester/home/index.php>. Finally there is a link from our website to a maps webpage showing the exact location of John Foster Hall. Click the link on www.manorcon.org.uk.

By car

From almost anywhere in the country, the best driving route to the convention is via the M1 Junction 21 - the junction with the M69.

From the M1 J21, take the A5460 towards Leicester for about 1/4 of a mile.

As you go under the A563, immediately turn off to the left, looping back on yourself, and going over the bridge you have just gone under, on the A563 (Leicester ring road) heading around the South of the city.

Follow the A563 for about 4 miles, until you get to the roundabout with the A6.

Take the second exit off the roundabout, turning right. Then immediately turn into the first road on the left - Stoughton Drive South.

After about 600 yds you come to a crossroads where you turn right onto Manor Road. The entrance to John Foster Hall is 300 yds on the left.

Editor: Jeremy Tullett

Coordinator: David Norman

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\(at\)ellought.demon.co.uk](mailto:david(at)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: 01332-385322

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