

# 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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- ManorCon 2015 with EuroDipCon 2015
- Yorkshire DipCon 2015

## Forthcoming Conventions

<b>26th Beer and Pretzels</b> The Town Hall, Burton upon Trent 16-17 May 2015 <a href="http://www.spiritgames.co.uk/articles.php?menu=11">www.spiritgames.co.uk/articles.php?menu=11</a>	<b>UK Games Expo</b> NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 29-31 May 2015 <a href="mailto:richard@ukgamesexpo.co.uk">richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk">www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk</a>	<b>Yorkshire DipCon 2015</b> The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, HU16 5SQ 19-21 June 2015 <a href="http://www.ukf2fdip.org">www.ukf2fdip.org</a>
<b>Raiders of the Game Cupboard 31</b> Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF Saturday 27 June 2015 10am-8pm <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>	<b>Summer StabCon</b> Britannia Hotel Stockport 3-5 July 2015 <a href="mailto:bookings@stabcon.org.uk">bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk</a>	<b>ManorCon XXXIII</b> John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 17-20 July 2015 <a href="mailto:Info@manorcon.org.uk">Info(at)manorcon.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.manorcon.org.uk">www.manorcon.org.uk</a>
<b>Pasteboard and Plastic</b> Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 25 July 2015 Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k">http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k</a> Map: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng">http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng</a>	<b>The Cast are Dice</b> Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College, ST4 2RU 8-9 August 2015 <a href="http://www.thecastaredice.co.uk/">http://www.thecastaredice.co.uk/</a>	<b>Mindsports Olympiad</b> JW3, Finchley Road, London 23-31 August 2014 <a href="http://www.msoworld.com">http://www.msoworld.com</a>
<b>Board Game Week</b> Le Pas Opton, France 14-21 September 2015 <a href="http://Springharvestholidays.com/board-game-week">Springharvestholidays.com/board-game-week</a>	<b>Dragondaze</b> Newport Centre Newport, Wales, NP20 1UH Saturday 19 September 2015 <a href="http://allis020.wix.com/dragondaze">http://allis020.wix.com/dragondaze</a>	<b>Raiders of the Game Cupboard 33</b> Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF Saturday 26 September 2015 10am-8pm <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>
<b>TringCon XXXI</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 26 September 2015 <a href="mailto:tringcon@fwtwr.com">tringcon(at)fwtwr.com</a> <a href="http://www.fwtwr.com/tringcon">www.fwtwr.com/tringcon</a>	<b>Travel Con 2015</b> Traveller's Rest, Kenton Road, Kenton, Middlesex, HA3 8At 16-18 October 2015 Chris Geggus - <a href="mailto:geggus@sky.com">geggus (at) sky.com</a>	<b>MidCon 2015</b> The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 13-15 November 2015 <a href="http://MidCon.org.uk">MidCon.org.uk</a>
<b>Pasteboard and Plastic</b> Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 21 November 2015 Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k">http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k</a> Map: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng">http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng</a>	<b>Board Games at the Manor</b> Otford Manor TN15 6XF 4-6 December 2015 <a href="http://www.oakhall.co.uk/manor">www.oakhall.co.uk/manor</a> <a href="mailto:office@oakhall.co.uk">office(at)oakhall.co.uk</a>	<b>Swan Con 2016</b> The Swan Hotel, Bucklow Hill, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6RD 10-13 March 2016. Chris Geggus - <a href="mailto:geggus@sky.com">geggus (at) sky.com</a>
<b>TringCon XXXII</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 2 April 2016 <a href="mailto:tringcon@fwtwr.com">tringcon(at)fwtwr.com</a> <a href="http://www.fwtwr.com/tringcon">www.fwtwr.com/tringcon</a>		<b>Derby on Board Games</b> The Bookcafe, Cornmarket, Derby Last Wednesday of every month, except December. 4pm- 10pm

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## Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

### MidCon Lost and Found

I usually scoot around after the convention has closed, and pick up items of lost or abandoned property, but I don't always do much about it. However, here is a description of what I am holding from 2013 and 2014:

1. A selection of cards and counters as pictured.
2. A very battered copy of *Fireside Football*.
3. A very battered copy of *Formula Motor Racing*.
4. A copy of *Trivial Pursuit Genus edition*.
5. A copy of *Secrets of the Tombs*.



I assume that the games are probably failed sales at the bring'n'buy, abandoned by the owner (and they were all together). I'll hold these until the close of MidCon 2015, at which point I'll dispose of them as I see fit. Any claimants please contact me – details on the back page.

Last year, someone did in fact claim a set of quite important character cards left behind the year before, so it is just as well that I do mention these things.

**The cricket season is upon us.** I saw a team playing two weekends ago, and the office team for which I play has its first game this week, just ahead of the May Bank Holiday. Derby City Council seems to have taken against cricket in its round of spending cuts, and non-league teams, such as ours, can now only be accommodated on just one of the council's pitches, and then only after all of the league fixtures have been allocated. This costs £70 per match (plus car park charges), and increase of around 50% in two years.

Rolls Royce has its own pitches, which offer better facilities than the council, and free parking, but cost £100 per booking. Somewhat late in the day, we are calling around the opponents for our 'home' fixtures to offer them the choice of 'expensive and good', or 'cheaper and less good'.

I find this exercise does reveal some interesting insights into people's view of the value of money. At least one of our players will squeal about an extra £1 per night over last year's fees, whilst cheerfully taking his family abroad for a villa holiday during the summer. This being so, I await some interesting feedback from the potential opposition.

It is almost as difficult as running a games convention.

## MidCon 2015 (Jeremy Tullett)

A contract has now been agreed with the Hallmark Hotel for 13-15 November 2015, and will have been signed by the time that you read this. Information about bedrooms and prices will follow shortly. Again, by the time you read this, it is likely that the online bookings system will be available.

The format will be the same as in previous years, with the following two new features:

- Attendance on Friday has now got to the level that we have arranged for MidCon meals to be provided on Friday lunchtime, in the same format as Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime, etc.
- We have made a provisional booking for an extra room in the Hallmark Inn on the Saturday, which could be used for the bring'n'buy games sale, or as an overflow gaming area, or a gaming area dedicated to a particular purpose (e.g. someone wanting to run a multi-player campaign session). Suggestions are welcomed.

### Payment for the Registration Fee and for Accommodation

For the **registration fee** we accept payment by PayPal (visit [www.midcon.org.uk](http://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.

### Bed and breakfast prices per room per night

	Thu	Fri / Sat	Twins / doubles are available for single occupancy, at the full room rate.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£TBA	£64.00	The convention closes 6pm Sunday, but anyone wishing to stay on Sunday night will get the Friday / Saturday room rate.
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£TBA	£77.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£TBA	£54.00	<b><i>Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on departure.</i></b>
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£TBA	£67.00	

**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° of single rooms				
N° of twin rooms				
N° of double rooms				
Sharing with ...				

# ManorCon XXXIII

17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015

John Foster Hall, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXXIII is proceeding well. If you haven't booked yet, remember that you can do so in two ways. You can book online via PayPal or a credit or debit card – visit <http://www.manorcon.org.uk/book.htm> and follow the links. Or you can still post a form and cheque – the form can be found at the same place if you need one (and the form is also in the previous QLA, or can be requested by phone/post/email – see below for contact details). Please remember that **advance registration is only available until 13<sup>th</sup> June**. After this, you will have to register at the door and pay higher registration fees and accommodation charges (and you may not get any accommodation at all – our supply of rooms is fairly limited).

If you have booked, but need to cancel all or some of your booked accommodation, you should inform us as soon as possible. If you cancel by the booking deadline, then you will definitely avoid cancellation charges. Thereafter, the later you leave it to inform us, the more likely you are to suffer accommodation cancellation charges.

ManorCon is run by volunteers, and does not aim to make a profit. In order for us to keep this tradition, we ask for volunteers for a number of tasks. One of these is help with the registration desk, usually by manning the desk for an hour on the Friday afternoon. If anybody asks anything you don't know, just point them at the nearest committee member – it's not difficult. If you would like to help us out and failed to mention it when booking, please e-mail us at [regdesk@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:regdesk@manorcon.org.uk).

This year, as usual, we will have a mix of scheduled and ad-hoc tournaments, plus some other competitions and events.

## Scheduled tournaments:

- Croquet** – a knockout tournament (the Croquet Challenge) limited to a maximum of 16 players, plus a final between the winner of the Challenge and reigning champion Mick Haytack.
- Diplomacy** – individual rounds at 1900 on Friday, 1000 on Saturday (team round), and 1000 on Sunday.
- Midnight Party** – three rounds, at midnight each evening.
- Tzolk'in** – Saturday morning

## Ad-hoc tournaments (play games as and when you wish):

- 18XX**

## Other events:

- Pop Quiz** – on Saturday evening, run by Phil Hannay.
- Treasure Hunt**: This will start at 2pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- Prototypes**: Paul Grogan of “Gaming Rules!” will be demoing some prototypes throughout the convention, including:
  - A new edition of **Through the Ages**
  - A new faction deck for **Tash-Kalar**
  - **Nippon** (from the designers of Panamax and Madeira)
  - Vital Lacerda's **The Gallerist**
  - And several more to be revealed...

❑ **Games Stall.** Once again, Milestone Games will be running a games stall for new games and gaming accessories. They will provide a 15% discount to all purchases, and there will be some special offers as well. If there is anything specific you would like, you can contact them at sales@milestonegames.co.uk.

❑ **Second Hand Games Sale** – Sara Merritt will be looking after the sale again this year so make sure you dig out your yummiest games for her to sell for you! The new seller form is now on the website if you have lots of games to sell and want to make your list in the comfort of home. Volunteers are needed, don't leave it all to her! She would like help with the following: Fri 7-8pm and Sat 1.30-2.45pm (games and crowd management) and Fri 7.15-8.15pm plus Sat 1.45-2.45pm (selling). If you would like to apply for either of these prestigious positions, which also allow you first sight of the games for sale, or if have any questions, please contact her at saraljpx@gmail.com. (Please let her know in advance if you can help, don't leave it to the day, or she'll be a bag of nerves.)

Please note that, for several reasons, including the need to ensure there is sufficient space, the selling of games other than via the Games Stall or the Second Hand Games Sale should not be done without permission from the ManorCon Committee (contact details below).

There will be trophies for:

- 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in the Diplomacy;
- Members of the winning team in the Diplomacy team round;
- 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 18XX.
- The winner of the Croquet Challenge, and the overall winner.

**As of 10th may the following 86 people have registered:**

Gary Bailey	John Harrington	Annie Percik
Steve Bailey	Toby Harris	Sue Phillips
Steve Barry	Nick Harrison	Emmanuel du Pontavice
Richard Beattie	Hazel Hawker	Richard Ramsden
David Blowers	Jeff Hawker	Julie Richards
Malcolm Booker	Mark Hayton	Paul Richards
Sean Byrne	Ian Hayward	Mark Rigby-Jones
A B	Sascha Hingst	Mandy Robinson
Angela Counce	Paul Hoad	Ursula Searle
Trev Clarke	Martin Holden	Andrew Simpson
John Colledge	Dave Holmes	Dave Simpson
Tim Cooper	John Hopkins	Richard Solomon
David Cowie	Steve Jones	Stuart Stafford
Robert Dillon	Kevin Lee	Mark Stretch
David Durant	Gary Lyon	Ted Swalwell
Gary Duke	Russell Martin	Steve Thomas
Jerry Elsmore	Pete Mason	Dave Thorby
Colin Evans	Bill Mayling	David Tittle
James Faulkner	Millis Miller	Michael Townsend
Clark Fenney	Jim Mills	Tim Troman
Mark Fox	Richard Minson	Jeremy Tullett
Clive Francis	Neil Munkman	Daniel Victor
Alan Gates	David Norman	Phil Ward
John Gates	Cal O'Dowd	Simon Wilcock
James Goodman	Bill O'Neill	Joy Williams
Chris Green	Andy Parsons	Derek Wilson
Paul Grogan	Marco Noseda Pedraglio	Ian D Wilson
Victor Hall	Andrew Pelton	Mark Wright
Geoff Hardingham	Nigel Pepper	Annie Percik

If you think you are missing from this list, please let us know as soon as possible, but remember that the list only shows those who had booked by 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you booked after that date, your name will not be on

the above list, but you should have received confirmation of your booking from Gary Duke. You can also contact us:

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

By phone: +44 (0)1234 405878.

By email: [info@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk)

On BoardGameGeek: <http://www.boardgamegeek.com/guild/441>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5594179334&v=wall>

And our website is <http://www.manorcon.org.uk>

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## **Yorkshire DipCon 2015 (Graeme Murphy)**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015**

**The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, HU16 5SQ**

Yorkshire DipCon is a relatively new addition to the UK Face to Face Diplomacy Groups Tour of Britain and will take place at The University of Hull's Lawns Centre in the village of Cottingham, located on the outskirts of Hull.

The event in 2014 was extremely successful, received lots of positive feedback and most attendees indicated that they would be back to play some more Dip in 2015.

**The Diplomacy tournament** will consist of between 3 and 4 rounds (depending on numbers). These will take place on the Friday evening, Saturday morning/early afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning/early afternoon. Games will use the C-Diplo Scoring System and run until the end of 1907. Trophies and certificates will be available for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and there will be some especially themed Tournament Director awards made for more, shall we say, 'unusual achievements'.

The games will take place in two, newly refurbished, meeting rooms within the Lawns Centre that will be available for our use 24 hours per day over the weekend so lots of chance to play some other games once the Diplomacy has finished for the day. Please note that this will include the Sunday night for those players leaving on the Monday. (Gaming areas are also available within Ferens Hall, which will be used for the accommodation). All gaming areas will also be available on the Monday too for those hardened players who never know when to stop!

**Accommodation** can be provided on site at Ferens Hall. Rooms are newly refurbished and en-suite and are only a two minute walk from the Lawns Centre itself. They are available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights on a B&B (£25 per night) or Self Catering (£20 per night) basis.

Please note that you will be allowed to bring your own food and drinks (including alcoholic beverages) onsite throughout the event although food should be consumed in the Hall of Residence and not in the Lawns Centre, which has its own catering facilities. (Your own alcoholic drinks will be allowed within the Lawns so long as they stay within the gaming rooms where a fridge will be provided).

**Advance Bookings for Yorkshire DipCon 2015** are now being accepted at the UK Face to Face Diplomacy Groups website ([www.ukf2fdip.org](http://www.ukf2fdip.org)) where you can also find lots more information about the event, the accommodation and the UK Diplomacy hobby as a whole.

As of late April, there are enough people signed up that it seems likely that it will be possible to support at least two boards in each round.

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## EuroDipCon 2015 (Dave Simpson)

### EuroDipCon XXIII at ManorCon XXXIII

ManorCon is one of the oldest and most prestigious tournaments in world Diplomacy, as most of its attendees will know. ManorCon has hosted three World DipCons (including the inaugural event) and has been an ever-present step on the European Grand Prix Circuit. However, the jewel in the crown of the European Hobby, EuroDipCon, has been absent from ManorCon to this point, so we will rectify that omission this summer.

The Diplomacy tournament will be the usual ManorCon format, with three rounds of Diplomacy taking place over three days. Saturday will host the team round, for which ManorCon is arguably most famous. All games will run to 1909. We will be using the traditional ManorCon scoring system and traditionally, each player counts their best two scores plus half of their third score. This will all be run by David Norman, your Tournament Director.

**Round start times.** 19:00 Friday, 10:00 Saturday, 10:00 Sunday - be there to register beforehand!

Note that the Friday night round will end about midnight. Saturday's round will end about 17:00. Sunday's round is followed by the prize-giving, which will end around 18:00. Saturday night will see a "quiet social event" taking place after the team round finishes, hosted by Toby Harris, your Entertainment Director. This is likely to feature his friend, Ruby Murray<sup>1</sup>.

For the team round, we are signing up teams of seven. Each team has one player playing each power (the team chooses who plays which). The highest total score of all seven players in the team wins. There will be several teams formed on either Friday night or on Saturday before the round starts. Knowing Diplomacy players, this can take a while. If experience is anything to go by, there will also be at least one team of eight and at least one person who is registered for two different teams, before we get people properly organised on Saturday morning. So if you don't have a team in advance, don't panic!

For the prize-giving, there will be trophies for the top seven individuals and trophies for members of the winning team. Also recognition for the following: Best Country awards, traditional ManorCon awards (Player most like a native of a country he is not from, TD's award etc.)

The target attendance for this event is 49 players, so we can have seven teams of seven on Saturday. To this end, your correspondent is traveling to Milan later this month to sign up those EuroDip players at WorldDipCon, at no additional cost to you, dear reader! You will see French, German, Italian, Dutch, American and Australian (yes, really) players joining us for this shindig.

Now some additional advice of a Euro-friendly nature for those intending to visit from overseas:

If you're driving from mainland Europe and entering the UK from France, then be warned that it will take much longer than you think to get around London on the M25 and up the M1 to Leicester on a Friday evening. If you have a journey plan that claims to have you arriving at ManorCon at 17:00, then you're cutting it fine for making the Friday evening round. Any later and you'll be missing Round 1! The convention opens on Friday at 14:00 so it is better to be early. Coming to the UK via Eurostar and taking a direct train from London St Pancras to Leicester would be faster than driving.

Leicester railway station is also served by direct trains from London Stansted airport and London Luton airport, and by a regular bus service from East Midlands airport. All three airports are destinations for low-cost carriers such as Ryanair and Easyjet.

Equally, if you are planning to travel home on Sunday evening, you'll need a train or bus from Central Leicester after 19:00. But it would be a much better idea to stay at ManorCon on Sunday night - it's the best night of the convention - the chill-out night. Play more games, drink more beer, leave on Monday (the convention closes 14:00 Monday and you'll find gamers playing games until then).

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<sup>1</sup> Footnote for Europeans: Toby doesn't know anyone actually called Ruby Murray - it's a term used for curry, from Cockney rhyming slang. The word Ruby is widely used to describe this cuisine, even by people outside the East End of London. [*Is it? Ed.*]

Advanced registration for ManorCon is only available until 13th June.

You can book online at <http://www.boardgamers.org.uk/booking.php> and pay via PayPal. Most ManorCon attendees now book by this method. Failure to book in advance may mean that you will be trying to get a room “on the door” on the day, which will be at least one of (a) significantly more expensive, (b) a worse room, (c) further away from the games and the bar, or (d) sold out. And it will mean you have to arrive with some proper currency already in hand – as in coins of the realm, Pounds Sterling. We don't accept anything that's accepted in Greece (nor Monopoly money).

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## **The Final Word**

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:

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