

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 60

Printed in Wiltshire

July 2017

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- **MidCon 2017**
- **ManorCon XXXV**

Forthcoming Conventions

WorldDipCon St John's College, Oxford 7-9 July 2017 wdc2017.com	Summer StabCon Britannia Hotel Stockport 7-9 July 2017 bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk http://stabcon.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/events/247185529036551/	ManorCon XXXV Stamford Court, University of Leicester 21-24 July 2017 info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk
The Great Indoors Event Arrow Valley Visitor Centre Redditch B98 0LJ www.greatindoorsevent.uk 29 July 2017	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 29 July 2017 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	HandyCon Holiday Inn, Handy Cross, High Wycombe, HP11 1TL 11-13 August 2017 www.handycon.co.uk
Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 20-28 August 2017 http://www.msoworld.com	Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 11-18 September 2017 Springharvestholidays.com/boardgame-week	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XL Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 23 September 2017 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
DragonDaze Newport Centre, 1 Kingsway, Newport, Wales, NP20 1UH Saturday 30 September 2017 http://www.dragondaze.com	TringCon XXXV Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 30 September 2017 tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	Travel Con 2017 Traveller's Rest, Kenton Road, Harrow HA3 8AT 12-15 October 2017. Contact: Chris Geggus on geggus(at)sky.com
Spieltage Messe Gruga, Essen, Germany 26-29 October 2017 http://www.merz-verlag-en.com/	MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 17-19 November 2017 MidCon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 25 November 2017 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng
Boardgames at the Manor Otford Manor TN15 6XF 1-3 December 2017 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor office(at)oakhall.co.uk	Handycon Holiday Inn High Wycombe M40 Jcn 4 19-21 January 2018 handycon.co.uk	SoRCon 11 Holiday Inn, Basildon 23rd to 25th February 2018 Doors open 10am Friday sorcon.co.uk
Baycon 2018 Exeter Court Hotel Kennford 4-8 April 2018	UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 1-3 June 2018 http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk	ManorCon XXXVI Stamford Court, University of Leicester 20th to 23rd July 2018 info(at)manorcon.org.uk

ManorCon XXXV

21st to 24th July 2017

Stamford Court, University of Leicester

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. **As was the case last 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 in Stamford Court 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

As last year, the accommodation will in John Foster Hall, and the rest of the convention will be across the road in Stamford Court.

207 people have pre-registered for the Con, which is a little bit more than in recent years.

Gaming rooms

There are a number of gaming rooms, which will be the same rooms as last year. The main gaming hall is where the ad-hoc gaming will mostly take place. There are also rooms for the Pop Quiz, Treasure Hunt, Second Hand Games Stall, and a number of other general gaming rooms. Following feedback from last year, we have re-organized the usage of some of the rooms to provide more space where needed.

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

Food and Drink

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the reception area of Stamford Court. Tea and filter coffee is available continuously throughout the day, and it's free! The bar will be open 2pm to 1am Friday, noon to 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 15-20 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

Steve Bailey will be running the SHGS this year. Volunteers are always welcome to help out in the running of the SHGS; if you would like to help, please contact Steve at steve21356@ntlworld.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 Robin Walters. 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 convention is in Stamford Court, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2LH. The accommodation is in 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 07340 048 313 (or +44 7340 048 313 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

You are welcome to park in any University car park. There is a map of where these are at the end of this article. Parking permits will be issued as people drive in, or from reception. We can also have some on our reception desk. They can be handed back to the porters, or Gilbert Murray reception. The University will also look at having a box at the car park exit.

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.

Stamford Court shares its car park with Bowder Court (which we've previously used for en-suite accommodation). This is a larger car park than John Foster, and is the best choice if you want easy access to your car while you're gaming.

You can also park in any other Leicester University Car Park. 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. There should be car-parking attendants on duty to help you.

When you arrive....

On Friday afternoon, the ManorCon Registration Desk will be located in the side entrance to Stamford Court, near the Bowder Court car park. Thereafter, it will be located just inside the main gaming 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 07340 048 313. 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

Some 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 only. The non-ad-hoc tournaments are as follows:

Diplomacy: There may be a tournament if numbers permit. If you are interested, contact Dave Simpson or another committee member when you arrive.

Croquet: There is no croquet tournament this year due to lack of demand.

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 Nottingham East Midlands (www.eastmidlandsairport.com), which has flights to various European destinations and other parts of the UK (see for details).

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

The 31/31A bus service stops immediately in front of the railway station and there are 8/6/4 buses per hour during the day on weekdays/Saturday/Sunday. Ask for the racecourse. The buses have screens that show what the next stop is: the best stop is called Victoria Court, and is just past the road on the left that leads to the Oadby campus (Stoughton Drive South), so after getting off, you need to walk back a little and turn right. It's next after a big three-way roundabout where the outer ring road joins the A6 from the right. If you see the Asda supermarket, you've gone past the stop and will need get off as soon as possible and walk back further! It's a 10-15 minute walk up Stoughton Drive South and then right along Manor Road to John Foster Hall.

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.

MidCon 2016 Report (Jeremy Tullett)

The Convention

MidCon XXXVIII takes place in the comfortable Hallmark Hotel in Derby from Friday morning (9am) to Sunday evening (6pm).

Important Updates

1. **Dates.** To re-iterate on the last issue of QLA, the convention will be a week later than has been usual in recent years: it will be **17-19 November 2017**.

2. **Car parking.** The other point of note is that there will definitely be an £4/day car park charge to be paid at the meter or at reception.

A day's parking at £4 is for up to 24 consecutive hours.

Reception is open 24 hours a day so there would be no problem with registering vehicles. There is no need to worry about clamping this is "not something we do".

Convention Registration

If you would like to join us at **MidCon**, please complete the form on the back page and return it with the appropriate convention fee to:

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

The Final Word

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

Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR
Tel: 01332-385322 Email: [jeremy.tullett\(at\)homecall.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.tullett(at)homecall.co.uk)

who put it all together, and David Norman, who arranged for the printing and distribution.

MidCon 2017 Booking Form

Tell us who you are:

Name(s)			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			

Registration Fee: tick the appropriate box(es). Registration fees are not refundable.

Fri/Sat/Sun (Book before 1 st Nov) £25	Fri/Sat/Sun (Book after 1 st Nov) £30	Friday only £15	Saturday only £15	Sunday only £10

Payment for the Registration Fee (tick box)

PayPal (visit www.MidCon.org.uk for details)	
Sterling cheque (made out to "MidCon Convention") / Cash (delete as appropriate)	
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 / Sun	Fri / Sat	Twins / doubles are available for single occupancy, at the full room rate.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£67.00	£67.00	The convention closes 6pm Sunday, but anyone wishing to stay on Sunday night will get the Friday / Saturday room rate. <i>Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on departure.</i>
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£80.00	£80.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£54.00	£54.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£67.00	£67.00	

Please note that there will be an £4 / day parking fee, payable in the hotel car park, or at reception.

Our bedroom allocation is held until mid-October: YOU ARE ADVISED TO BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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.

Inn or Hotel?	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated; please seek advice from a member of the <i>MidCon</i> committee if you have to cancel to minimise your financial exposure.
N ^o . of single rooms					
N ^o . of twin rooms					
N ^o . of double rooms					
Sharing with ...					

Accommodation deposit (tick box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit card	16 digit number:	Expiry:	You give permission for <i>MidCon</i> to pass the credit card details to the hotel to reserve your room.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque	50% of room costs	Payable to "Hallmark Hotel"	

When complete, return this form, together with your registration fee (payable to "MidCon Convention") to: Jeremy Tullett, MidCon, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR