

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:

- A letter!
- Manorcon XXXVI
- MidCon 2018 Q&A

Forthcoming Conventions

ManorCon XXXVI Stamford Court, University of Leicester 20-23 July 2018 info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 28 July 2018 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	The Great Indoors Parkside Suite, Market Street Bromsgrove B61 8DA 28-29 July 2018 www.great-indoors.co.uk
Handycon 4 Holiday Inn Manor Lane Maidenhead SL6 2RA 10-12 August 2018 Handycon.co.uk	Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 10-17 September 2018 Springharvestholidays.com/board-game-week	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XLIV Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 22 September 2018 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
Castlecon 2018 Flanesford Priory, Goodrich, Ross on Wye, HR9 6HZ. 22 September – 6 October 2018 gmiller.spruce(at)btinternet.com https://boardgamegeek.com/guild/2397	TringCon Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 29 September 2018 Contact(at)tringcon.org www.tringcon.org	Swan Con 2 The Swan Knutsford Cheshire 11-14 October 2018 geggus(at)sky.com
MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 2-4 November 2018 MidCon.org.uk	Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 19-27 August 2018 http://www.msoworld.com	DragonDaze Newport Centre, 1 Kingsway, Newport, Wales, NP20 1UH Saturday 6 October 2018 http://www.dragondaze.com
Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 24 November 2018 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	Boardgames at the Manor Oxford Manor TN15 6XF 14-16 December 2018 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor office(at)oakhall.co.uk	SoRCon 12 Holiday Inn Cranes Farm Road, Waterfront Walk Festival Leisure Park Basildon SS14 3DG 22-24 February 2019 (10am Friday) www.sorcon.co.uk
TringCon Marsworth Millenium Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 6 April 2019 contact(at)tringcon.org www.tringcon.org	Handycon Holiday Inn Manor Lane Maidenhead SL6 2RA 18-20 January 2019 Handycon.co.uk	MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2019 13-15 November 2020 MidCon.org.uk

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

No editorial this time – just a note from David Hecht, in response to what I wrote last time.

I'm embarrassed to admit I don't remember very much about you, largely as the combined result of a diminished attendance at UK gaming cons and a failing memory (ah, the ravages of age!), but perhaps you might remember me as one of Steve Thomas's American friends.

Hence the formal salutation as I do not think I am entitled to the more informal mode under the circs.

Be that as it may, I read your editorial with great interest and amusement—the more so that, at least here in these United States, expressing those sorts of sentiments regarding the new state religion would widely be viewed as heresy!

So, kudos to you for being willing to even tiptoe along the edges of that minefield!

The simple truth of the matter is, we have, at this point, long passed from tragedy into farce (to misappropriate Engels): the current regime reminds me of an old—and undoubtedly now-forbidden—joke that went along these lines:

A cowboy walks into a bar and observes an attractive woman alone. He strikes up a conversation, and—as it becomes apparent he has ulterior motives—the woman gently explains that she's not interested...she's a lesbian.

The cowboy retreats with good grace and asks the bartender, what's a lesbian? The barkeep laughs and says, c'mon...everyone knows a lesbian is someone who likes girls and not boys!

[I assume you can see where this is going, but I'll give you the punchline all the same:]

The cowboy ponders this, returns to the woman's table, and says, "That's OK, ma'am...I'm a lesbian too!"

As "one of a scientific leaning" as you style yourself, I assume I need not belabor the point: claiming that you "identify as" something you're not is—well—if taken to extremes, a sign of madness: on a par with all those people who fancy themselves Napoleon, or Marie of Rumania.

...Perhaps we need to update the old children's morality tale for the contemporary age and retitle it "The Emperor's New Genitalia"?

I did want to make one observation to qualify your dismissal of Meyers-Briggs: when I encountered it back in the 1980s, it was very useful to me not only in understanding myself better, but in understanding others better as well. Obviously this should not be taken to extremes, but it's very enlightening to think, well, I'm having trouble communicating with this person not because they are stupid or blinkered, but for typological reasons. And of course it encourages you to find a few people who DON'T share your typology to help you learn to think outside your own box.

The editor says ...

I am currently amused over here by the state of war that is developing between (some) feminists and some in the LGBT community because a man who had "transitioned" to a woman was selected for a female-only list for a prospective Labour MP candidate slot. The feminists were in uproar as this wasn't a "real" woman – always fun to see two PC ideologies at loggerheads.

Yes, I wasn't being entirely dismissive of M-B. It clearly measures something. However, like an IQ test, you have to be very clear what it is measuring before you can sensibly make claims for its utility. My M-B analysis looks like a pretty fair description of me, but then, so do some Aquarian horoscopes. Since it is well known that horoscopes are written in fairly vague (and usually flattering) terms, it is no great surprise that people recognise themselves on the basis of no objectively scientific derivation of the prose. I remain to be convinced that M-B is substantially better than a horoscope.

ManorCon XXXVI (Nick Harrison)

Friday 20th to Monday 23rd July 2018
Stamford Court, University of Leicester
Progress Report Number 2 - July 2018.
www.manorcon.org.uk

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. **Please bring it with you. Unlike last year, the room keys will be handed out from the ManorCon reception desk on Friday from 2pm. From Saturday morning, they will be available from the reception desk at Stamford Court.** You can also pick up your badge and a Programme Booklet from the reception desk.

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

Most of the accommodation this year will be in Bowder Court, which is next to Stamford Court, and some rooms will be in John Foster Hall, which is just across the road.

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.

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

Meeple Games (taking over from 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 0191-386-0553 or email sales@meeplegames.uk. The 10% discount code for ManorCon purchases is mc2018

Second Hand Games Sale

Steve Bailey will be running the SHGS. 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 Great British Bake Off themed. Come and solve some puzzles in our tent (i.e. the bar) on Sunday afternoon. There will be cake.

Gaming Rules!

Paul Grogan will be teaching and running tournaments for a number of recently released games, and will also have some top-secret prototypes of games that have not yet been released, including Escape Plan from Vital Lacerda (Eagle-Gryphon Games)! He will be running a Pulsar 2849 tournament on Saturday starting at 10am, with teaching on Friday for anyone who needs it. There will also be a Klask tournament on Sunday. For more information, seek out Paul online (e.g. FaceBook) or when you arrive at the convention - look for the Gaming Rules! demo area in the main hall.

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. If you need to contact one of the committee, the ManorCon mobile number is 07391 046410 (or +44 7391 046410 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 parking permits are not enforced, so don't worry if you don't get one.

Stamford Court shares its car park with Bowder Court (where most of the accommodation is). There is also some parking over the road in John Foster Hall.

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. Report to the ManorCon reception desk to pick up your room key (if staying in the University accommodation), your badge and a programme booklet.

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 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, which 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 may not be able to get into the gaming hall. Please do not attempt to enter before midday.

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 as the ManorCon reception desk might be closed. Ring the ManorCon mobile on 07391 046410. 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 ManorCon reception desk.

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.

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.

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 Stamford Court.

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 Stamford Court.

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 NXEC service to Peterborough and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester.

From the city centre

The easiest way to get to Stamford Court 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 Stamford Court.

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 Stamford Court. 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 cross-roads where you turn right onto Manor Road. The entrance to Stamford Court is 300 yds on the right. The entrance to John Foster Hall is on the left.

Some Question (and Answers) Regarding MidCon 2018 Bookings

One of our attendees raised some questions, which I passed back to the hotel. You may find the answers (in italics, from the hotel) helpful.

1. Booking by phone is not possible if people want the Special MidCon rate. - *They should be able to book via telephone so I will speak to the reservations team tomorrow and ask why this is posing as an issue¹.*
2. Trying to book 4 nights Thursday to Sunday, no singles were offered, however twins and doubles were offered at the £68 per night. Odd. I suppose all the singles could have been taken for the Thursday. - *We unfortunately do not have any singles left for these dates².*
3. Cancellation policy, you can't. You pay in full up front and regardless of anything no refund, no change of occupant. I suspect that with this policy in place, few people will book early. (Or fail to read it then moan if they want to cancel) - *This is a new policy in place, all bookings are pre-payable at the time of booking.*
4. Getting to the screen where the code MidCON can be entered was a hit and miss affair. The secret seems to be to select a booking for a function rather than as an individual. Not exactly user friendly - *We haven't had any complaints about the website bookings before but I have passed this onto the Marketing team as feedback but this is the way our website has been designed and we've never known it to be not user-friendly.*
5. They require a declaration that you have read and agree to their privacy policy. Selecting what looked like the link to the privacy policy gave a screen that said privacy policy but with no information and no return to the booking page. - *Again, I have passed this onto the marketing team as I have no control over the way the website is designed.*
6. They have what they say is a mandatory box to fill in giving mobile number. I don't use a mobile. May prove a showstopper. - *All bedroom reservations require either a mobile or landline number to secure the reservations so guests will be asked to provide this.*
7. Nothing that I saw about car parking charges. It is covered on the registration form so providing it is £4 a day you are covered. - *Car parking is payable on arrival at £4.00 per night.*

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.

¹ It should now be possible to book by telephone.

² Improbable as it seems (although not entirely unlikely), this appears to be true. There has been quite a flurry of registrations since the last QLA.

MidCon 2018 Registration 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	Fri/Sat/Sun	Friday only	Saturday only	Sunday only
Book before 19 th Oct: £25	Book after 19 th Oct: £30	£15	£15	£10

Payment for the Registration Fee (tick box)

PayPal (visit www.midcon.org.uk for details)	
Transfer to "MidCon Convention", Lloyds TSB Colmore Row 30-00-03 03033129	
Sterling cheque (made out to "MidCon Convention") / Cash (delete as appropriate), posted to: Jeremy Tullett, MidCon , 7 Midland Place, derby DE1 2RR	

Please provide your name and postcode as a reference with direct transfers. We *cannot* (yet) 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	£68.00	£68.00	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	£81.00	£81.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£55.00	£55.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£68.00	£68.00	

Please note that there will be an £4 / day parking fee, payable at the Hallmark Derby Inn or Hallmark Derby Midland reception.

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

***** Bedrooms are now to be booked directly with the hotel *****

which avoids the possibility of your chairman making errors in requesting your room, and also enables him to reclaim his Sunday mornings in the run-up to the event.

How to book your bedroom:

1. Visit the Hallmark Hotels website.
2. Locate either the "Derby Inn" or "Derby Midland".
3. Select the nights that you require.
4. Enter the booking code MidCON.
5. The rates listed above should be applied.
6. It should also be possible to book by telephone.

Please tick as appropriate.

- I wish you *immediately* to remove my address details from the **MidCon** records. (**Note:** this will prevent us from updating you on **MidCon** progress.)
- I wish you to keep my name and address records, solely for the purpose of informing me about **MidCon**, and providing me with postal copies of QLA