

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: Advance details for Manorcon XXXVIII and **MidCon** 2020.

Forthcoming Conventions

Raiders of the Games Cupboard L Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 21 March 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon Marsworth Millennium Hall, Marsworth, Bucks Saturday 4 April 2020 www.tringcon.org	Pasteboard and Plastic 41 Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 4 April 2020 tinyurl.com/3ex38k
BayCon 2020 Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon 15-19 April 2020 www.facebook.com/groups/baycon/	UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 29-31 May 2020 www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk	Raiders of the Games Cupboard LI Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 27 June 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
ManorCon XXXVIII Stamford Court, University of Leicester 17-20 July 2020 www.manorcon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic 42 Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 25 July 2020 tinyurl.com/3ex38k	HandyCon Holiday Inn, Maidenhead 7-9 August 2020 www.handycon.co.uk
Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 14-21 September 2020 www.springharvestholidays.com/featureweeks/board-games-week/	TringCon Marsworth Millennium Hall, Marsworth, Bucks Saturday 19 September 2020 www.tringcon.org	Raiders of the Games Cupboard LII Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 26 September 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
MidCon 2020 The Hallmark Hotel, Derby 13-15 November 2020 MidCon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic 43 Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 21 November 2020 tinyurl.com/3ex38k	Boardgames at the Manor Otford Manor, Kent 11-13 December 2020 https://www.oakhall.co.uk/manor/book/trip/manor?tripid=4477

Marvin Fried continues to run **Diplomacy** games frequently, but not regularly, with the general details being:

Location: Old Building, London School of Economics, Houghton St, London WC2A 2AE
Nearest Tube: Holborn or Temple

1200 arrival, rules training starts at 1215, country selection at 1245, game starts at 1300, typically on Saturdays. **Please find further details on Facebook – this is just a general guide.**

Beer 'n' Pretzels. Phil writes: [...] *there will not be another Beer & Pretzels – at least we made it to 30 years, which is not a bad run. Autumn B&P is also a thing of the past, as the Three Queens Hotel is no longer available, and neither is the Meadowside Sports Centre nearby. Many thanks to all of you who have made it such an enjoyable experience all these years, especially those who have travelled from afar and have been loyal supporters. Reach for the vinyl and put on a copy of George Harrison's "All things must pass".*

Last Orders is a new Diplomacy zine run by Simon Langley-Evans that seeks to recreate the "old postal ways" with new technology. The zine will offer a mix of dip games, puzzles, amusing tales, and reviews of films, books and music. Please contact LastOrdersDip@gmail.com for sample issues and to subscribe or join a game.

John Langley writes:

“There are a small number of U.K. players looking for a home. We used to play standard Dip and Intimate Dip (2 player Dip) via the old 'zines. In recent years one or two of us have used an American site called DiplomaticCorps which is not bad, but looks like it might fold as it's not been updated for a while. That only seems to leave sites like PlayDiplomacy, which seem to run to very short deadlines.

“We wondered if you knew of anyone running play by email games to approx one week deadlines? We had also considered recruit for such games by word of mouth or even perhaps by putting something in QLA if you would allow this.”

MidCon 2019 (Jeremy Tullett)

MidCon 2019 had a record number of registrations, finishing on a headcount of 280.

Last minute changes to the availability of the Hallmark Inn resulted in us swapping the Inn dining room for the dining room and Wine Room area of the Hallmark Hotel, which seemed to me to be an improvement.

The only problem here was the apparent double booking of the dining room for a pre-wedding party. This could have led to a lot of grief as the guests mixed with the gamers in the bar and lounge, but there were no difficulties reported to me.

The dinner guests were apparently on room-only terms, but it appears that many of them turned up for Sunday breakfast anyway, which, unsurprisingly, exacerbated the usual Sunday morning staffing problems.

I had only one complaint about behaviour, but it was never demonstrated that the individual concerned was a part of the convention rather than the wedding party, so thank you all for behaving so well.

A couple of you got caught with parking fines, although in at least one case, I think there was a foolish assumption in play. The notices on the parking machines should be taken at face value, and you cannot just stop for even a few minutes without paying. All convention attendees need to register their cars at the appropriate reception desk (Inn or Hotel) to benefit from reduced or free rates, whether day visitors or residents.

A number of you kindly donated unsold games from the Bring and Buy for me to give to charity, or to sell with the proceeds to go to charity. I can report that some games went directly to a local charity shop. Some simpler games in good condition were donated to a charity that collects Xmas presents for deprived children in Derby, and I have managed to sell some on eBay for modest sums. The proceeds are in a tin on my shelf waiting for an opportunity for a donation. The remainder were offered to the **MidCon** games library. Actually – *they* are now the **MidCon** games library.

MidCon 2020 (Jeremy Tullett)

The contract is confirmed for 13-15 November. I am awaiting a booking code for the website, and the contract also needs to be varied to account for the use of the Hotel dining room, rather than that of the Inn.

I am also awaiting the dates that are available for 2021. If 2020 is bigger again than 2019, we will need to find extra space somewhere, although the Aston Court would probably do as a short-term expedient for extra space.

MANORCON XXXVIII

Stamford Court, University of Leicester. 2pm Friday 17th July – 2pm Monday 20th July 2020

Following on from last year's successful convention, ManorCon will once again be held at the University of Leicester. The gaming halls will remain at Stamford Court with accommodation nearby.

Please note, ManorCon does not start until 2pm on Friday. In recent years, people have been arriving earlier and earlier, to the extent that it has started to interfere with the convention preparation on Friday morning. The University needs to adapt the venue to our set up and thus it is unlikely that there will be space available for anyone arriving before 2pm.

As ever, single accommodation is available at the convention. All rooms are en-suite rooms. These will cost £44 per night, and £8 per night extra if you don't book in advance. As always, you are therefore recommended to book early to guarantee a room.

For those people who want twin accommodation, we recommend The Regency Hotel, which is just under a mile from the convention. The contact details are: The Regency Hotel, 360 London Road, Stonygate, LE2 2PL; 0116 270 9634. If you want to take this option, we recommend booking early, as it has been known to fill up on ManorCon weekend. Their website is www.the-regency-hotel.com.

ManorCon will be pretty much the same as the successful formula we've had in previous years. Running from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime, it will have all the regular tournaments, plus one or two possible new ones, depending on the success (or otherwise) of the latest new game releases. It will once again feature the Second Hand Game Sale on Friday and Saturday, the Pop Quiz on Saturday evening, and the Treasure Hunt on Sunday afternoon, as well as more games than you can shake a stick at.

Tournaments will include 18XX and Midnight Party. If there is a tournament that you would like us to run, please contact a member of the committee and we'll try to fit it in. There will also be plenty of non-tournament games on offer far too numerous to mention!

There is, of course, a bar, and we are working to make sure that the Real Ale is up to standard.

On the next page, you should find a booking form. You can also download the booking form (and find lots of other ManorCon information) on the ManorCon website, www.manorcon.org.uk. Please note the booking deadline - 14th June 2020. If you need any further information, please contact us:

- Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK (+44 (0)1234 405878)
- email us at info@manorcon.org.uk

If you've never been to ManorCon before and are wondering what it's all about, ManorCon is the largest board games convention in the UK. It's held annually in July in one of the halls of residence of Leicester University. Approximately 240-250 gamers come along for a weekend of intensive board gaming, some entering tournaments, many simply playing socially. It's great fun, and makes a change from your humdrum everyday life. If you've never been before, why not try it?

The aim of ManorCon is to play games and have fun, and our aim is to help you to succeed in doing both! Whether you're looking to spend a whole day playing one game of Civilization, or to play a wide range of shorter games such as Agricola, Power Grid, Settlers of Catan, Acquire, Dominion, Race for the Galaxy, Stone Age, Ticket to Ride, and many more, ManorCon is the place to be. And if you've never heard of any of these games, but are interested in playing games which reward good play without turning into the brain-ache of chess, with a large group of similarly interested people, then why not come along and find out what its all about?

To book, please either visit <http://www.manorcon.org.uk/book.htm> or complete the form below and return by 14th June to: Gary Duke, MANORCON, 2 Sturmeay Drive, Fleet, Hants, GU51 1GP, UK. Please make cheques payable to: **ManorCon**. If you wish to pay using credit card, this can only be done using the online booking system and not via post or on the door.

This form should be returned to Gary before 14th June 2020. PRE-BOOKINGS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. However, there will **probably** be some rooms available if you arrive and pay on the door. Please note that room prices are higher if not booked in advance.

PLEASE DO NOT USE RECORDED DELIVERY. Bookings sent by recorded delivery may be significantly delayed until Gary can get to the sorting office to collect them. If you send your booking by recorded delivery, and this causes your booking to not be received until after the deadline, then your booking will not be accepted.

The prices are subject to variation in the event of VAT changes. Cancellations may be made up to June 14th 2020 for a full refund.

It is the responsibility of delegates to look after their valuables. ManorCon cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items.

GDPR: Details of your booking are stored on computers. We will use it for the purpose of running ManorCon, and will send them details of future conventions via QLA. We do not sell our mailing lists to any other individuals or organisations.

Please tick here if you would like information about other UK Conventions to be sent to you via email

Please sign here.....

Name:	Male/Female	
Address		
email:		
Telephone no:		
If this will be your first time at ManorCon, please tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
If you are willing to help out on the registration desk, please tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
If you are a qualified first aider, please tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>If non-resident, please tick to indicate which days you will be attending:</i>		
Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Registration fee: £6 for one day, £10 for the weekend. (NB. If paying on the door, prices rise to £8 and £12)	£	
Accommodation: £44 per night for an en-suite single (NB. If paying on the door, prices will be £8 extra per person per night)		
Friday	Enter £44	£
Saturday	Enter £44	£
Sunday	Enter £44	£
Total enclosed:		£

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.