

HOBBY NEWS

Volume 2, No. 13

December 1994

Chris Tringham, 10 Jubilee Court, London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 6JL
John Dodds, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SW16 2JQ

0181-683 2815 Compuserve 100343,362
0181-677 3287 jdodds@cix.compulink.co.uk

MIDCON

Midcon 94 was a success, with a (small) increase in numbers attending, and everything went very smoothly. The National Diplomacy Championship Top Ten are as follows:

- Winner Bob Kendrick** (Joint best Germany, Best Turkey)
2nd Toby Harris
3rd John Colledge
4th Jim Mills (Best France)
5th Shaun Derrick (Best England - outright win)
6th Dave Wreathall
7th Rob Lozynskyj

The Midcon Trophy was won by Mike Collins. The Quiz was won by Iain Bowen, Geoff Challinger, Mick Haytack, and John Webley. The Darts was won by Colin Gamble and Steve Smith. The United tournament was won by John Dodds.

Provisional dates for next year are 10-12 November 1995, and there is likely to be a small price increase for the bedrooms. Stephen Agar is taking over as NDC Tournament Director, and will be assisted by Neil Duncan.

THE MIDCON HOBBY DISCUSSION

The new Introductory Booklet has been completed but not yet produced except for use by Stephen Agar. It will be produced shortly.

Pete Sullivan will produce one more issue of *Mission from God*, and then hand it over to a new editorial team, probably consisting of Kim Head, Neil Duncan and Chris Tringham. There was some discussion about the frequency and format, but no changes were agreed.

Stephen Agar wants to hand on the job of Hobby Advertising Co-ordinator. Volunteers should write to him at 79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL.

It was agreed that a new Hobby Services Group would be set up to co-ordinate the essential hobby services and provide a forum for monitoring their progress, discussing changes and allowing potential volunteers to discover what's involved. It will essentially consist of a mailing list, which anyone can join for the cost of postage (4 x 25p stamps a year).

There was no great interest in the idea of reviving the Novice Editor's Package, and no volunteered to produce one.

Harry Bond will replace Andy Bate as Miller Number Custodian as from the start of 1995.

The European Diplomacy Association (prop. Xavier Blanchot) was discussed, and it was agreed that it has done nothing and probably ought to be wound up.

THE PIMLEY AWARD

Iain Bowen is accepting nominations for the Pimley Award. This is an award for service to the hobby given in memory of Les Pimley, a hobby figure of the 70's who died of a brain haemorrhage. At this stage you are asked to nominate individuals who you feel have made a significant contribution to the hobby (not just in 1994), to reach Iain Bowen (5 Wigginton Terrace, York YO3 7JD) by 1 February 1995.

Iain is looking for someone to take over running the award after this year. Write to him at the above address.

CAMBRIDGE DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT

This National Diplomacy Qualifying Competition will be on Saturday 11th February, in the Chetwyn Room, Kings College, Cambridge, starting at 11 am (probably), and will cost £2-£3.

More details are available from the organizer, Stephen Othen (email: smo13@uk.ac.cam.phx). His postal address in Cambridge is Peterhouse, Cambridge, CB2 1RD (tel 0223 64088) or at home 7, Hurn Close, Ashley, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 2AD (tel 0425 474830) between 19/12/94 and 10/1/95.

FURRYCON

Furrycon takes place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, as usual. This year it is from 6 pm Friday 26 May to 5 pm Monday 29 May 1995, at the Old Ship hotel on the seafront in Brighton. Con fee is £15 for gamers (£12 before 31st March 1995) for the weekend (or £5 per day); Non-gamers £1. Accommodation costs £29.75 per person per night (in a twin or double room). Single rooms cost £41.50 per night. The cost of accommodation includes a full English breakfast and children up to the age of 16 years can stay in their parents room free of charge - though their breakfast will be charged.

Major event will be InterGame UK, as always. There will be other events plus a large library of games to borrow and play and lots of people to play with. The organizers expect to have a number of games designers/inventors along.

Incidentally, *Small Furry Creatures Press* (the magazine) has been relaunched as *Games Games Games*.

THE 22ND DIPLOMACY ZINE POLL

A reminder that you should vote in the Zine Poll by rating all the eligible zines that you see between 1 (low) and 10 (high), preferably on an official voting form, and sending it to Ryk Downes at 63 Hirst Wood Road, Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 4BU by 31 December 1994. Send an SSAE for the results booklet.

STABCON 95

Stabcon 95 will be at Woolton Hall, Manchester on 6-8 January 1995. A mixture of board games, wargames and role playing games. University accommodation is available at £16 a night (£21 a night if breakfast required). Registration £5 in advance, £7.50 on the door.

Contact: Stabcon, 17 Davenport Park Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6JU.

MASTERCON 2/EURODIPCON 3

The second Mastercon will also play host to EuroDipCon, an event that has previously taken place in Paris in October 1993 and Sweden in May 1994. The location is the Kings Head Hotel in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and the dates are Friday 24 to Sunday February 1995. Registration is £10 per person, with a special concessionary rate of £5 for non-UK residents, and hotel rooms are £23 per person per night sharing or £25 single.

Features the European Diplomacy Championship and more besides (which means we've lost the flyer!)

To register, send £10 (or £5) to Shaun Derrick, 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave, Coventry CV2 2AP.

BAYCON

We don't have the details of next year's event, but believe that it will be back at the normal place at the normal time (near Exeter around Easter time). Info please.

FURRYCON

Furrycon takes place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, as usual. To be precise, it is from 6 pm Friday 26th May to 5 pm Monday 29th May 1995, at the Old Ship hotel on the seafront in Brighton. Con fee is £15 for gamers (£12 before 31st March 1995) for the weekend (or £5 per day); Non-gamers £1. Accommodation costs £29.75 per person per night (in a twin or double room). Single rooms cost £41.50 per night. The cost of accommodation includes a full English breakfast and children up to the age of 16 years can stay in their parents room free of charge - though their breakfast will be charged.

Major event will be InterGame UK, as always. There will be other events plus a large library of games to borrow and play and lots of people to play with. The organizers expect to have a number of games designers/inventors along.

MANORCON 13

Will take place at Birmingham University from Friday 21 to Monday 24 July. More details from Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN (email: peter@manorcon.demon.co.uk)

MidCon

Friday November 18 - Sunday November 20 1995 at Birmingham's Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, a modern city centre hotel with an adjoining NCP car park. Features the National Diplomacy Championship finals.

HOBBYMEETS

BRISTOL: The Knowle (Back Bar), Leighton Road, off Priory Road, off Wells Road. 1st Friday of the month. Paul Norris (0272 427061) Richard Egan (0272 774460)

EXETER: Thatchmeet at the Mount Radford on Magdalen Road on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Rob Mulholland (0392 494072).

FAREHAM: Richard Williams (0329 236125) organizes a get-together at his house, on the 2nd Sunday of even-numbered months from 10 am.

HERTFORDSHIRE: Semi-regular meetings on Monday and Friday evenings in St Albans (Steve Kingsbury 0727 844475) and Sawbridgeworth (Mike Taylor 0279 724687).

LONDON (1): The Royal George, Eversholt Street, near Euston station, 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact Vic Hall (071 326 0125) or Mike Allaway (081 863 6413) for details.

LONDON (2): The Small Furry Swiggers meet at the Royal Oak in Regency Street, Westminster every Wednesday from 6.30. Costs £2.

The **NOTTINGHAM & DERBY** Board Games Club meets every Thursday from 7-10.30 pm. Contact Mick Haytack on 0332 511898.

NORTH YORKSHIRE: Tap & Spile, Monk Bar, York, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, at noon. Contact Iain Bowen (0904 640095) or Pete Sullivan (0325 364153).

OXFORD: Every Wednesday during term-time at 7.30 in the nuclear physics building off Keble Road. All welcome. Details from Mark Stretch Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JW (term) or 2, Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL.

RIPLEY, near Woking: Usually 2nd Tuesday of the month, but can vary depending on availability of regulars. Starts with a curry and moves to a pub. Contact Dan Maslen (0483 721856) in advance to check on dates.

The **SHREWSBURY** Games Club meets every Sunday from 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm at The Lodge, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury. More information from Mark Kennett (0743 361417).

HOBBY SERVICES

Springboard is run by Danny Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1JG mainly to deal with people who respond to the Diplomacy box flyers. Players are limited to one gamestart.

The Finishing Touch is produced by Richard Sharp, Norton House, Whieldon Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0HU. The results of all Diplomacy games played in the UK: an invaluable source of reference for statisticians, or to find out something about your opponents.

The Novice Package provides a large amount of useful information for those who are new, and not so new, to the hobby. Includes a 56 page booklet with articles on playing Diplomacy and other games by post, a glossary of hobby jargon and pen pictures of hobby personalities, plus a number of sample zines and addresses for hobby services and zine editors. £2 from John Dodds, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London, SW16 2JQ.

Zine Bank: Send a large (A4) SAE stamped for 200g to John Dodds, (address above) and he will send you about half a dozen different zines.

Mission from God lists all the zines in the hobby, with information about prices, sizes, frequency, etc., together one or more brief reviews to give a flavour of what the zine offers. £1 from Peter Sullivan, address opposite. New issue out soon.

Hobby Advertising Campaign and Quick Gamestart Service: organized by Stephen Agar (79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL). The Hobby Advertising Campaign places adverts in various magazines, and the Quick Gamestart Service aims to match players and suitable waiting lists.

The Variant Bank is run by Mark Nelson, 1st Floor Flat, 3 Kelso Road, Leeds LS2 9PR (his email address is amt5man@amsta.leeds.ac.uk). It holds copies of all the well-known Diplomacy variants and more besides. The full catalogue is available for £1.