

HOBBY NEWS

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MASTERCON

The second Mastercon takes place at the Kings Head Hotel in Cirencester, Gloucestershire from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 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.

Mastercon will also play host to EuroDipCon, an event that has previously taken place in Paris in October 1993 and Sweden in May 1994.

You can get a coach to Cirencester from Victoria (2 hours) or Heathrow (1½ hours) or a train to Kemble (4 miles away) from Paddington.

Mastercon features the European Diplomacy Championship, an Intimate Diplomacy tournament, an 18xx tournament, a skittles tournament, and a banquet on Friday night. Plus there is a meeting of the European Diplomacy Association at which a motion to dissolve the organization is being proposed. There will also be a vote on the location of the next EuroDipCon.

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

MISSION FROM GOD

It has (we think) been agreed that Kim Head will take over as editor of *Mission from God*, with assistance from Neil Duncan and Chris Tringham. This has been the subject of much discussion over the last few weeks, but everyone now seems to be happy with the decision.

Kim runs the soccer prediction game *Sick as a Parrot*, but does not actually produce a zine as such, and so will want to trade *MfG* with other zines. As she wants to produce *MfG* every two or three months this is more practical than it may seem at first sight.

THE PIMLEY AWARD

Iain Bowen reports that there will not be a Pimley Award this year, because no valid nominations have been received. Apparently the only nominations were for members of the Manoron committee, who cannot win it again until next year. Iain is still looking for someone to take over.

THE FAT LADY SINGS

Mark Nelson is working on a new issue of *The Fat Lady Sings*, the irregular publication that lists all the currently postal Diplomacy players in the UK and contains all sorts of useful statistics and other information.

You can secure a copy for £1 if you send the money to Mark now (the price may rise later). Mark Nelson, 1st Floor Flat, 3 Kelso Road, Leeds LS2 9PR (email: amt5man@amsta.leeds.ac.uk).

THE GLADYS AWARDS

John Miller (259 Leek Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2BU) has announced the nominations for the Gladys Awards for 1994. Please send John your votes for the following categories by ranking the nominees in preference order:

Best Zine

Greatest Hits

Lies

Smódnoc

Spring Offensive

The Cunning Plan

Best New Zine

Howard's Wake

On The Game

Outbreak of Heresy

SNOT

Where is my mind?

Best for Dip and variants

Dolchstoß

Obsidian

Spring Offensive

The Cunning Plan

Best Looking Zine

Backstabber's United Monthly

Cut & Thrust

Lies

Megalomania

Spring Offensive

Best for other games

Cut & Thrust

Lies

On The Game

Smódnoc

Take That You Fiend

Most Regretted Fold

Age of Reason

Born Losers

C'est Magnifique

Die Grosse Dampfmaschine

Electric Monk

Gallimaufry

Smódnoc

The Laughing Roundhead

Best for Hobby News

Hobby News

Megalomania

Ode

Springboard

Spring Offensive

Best GM

Kath Collman

Stephen Agar

Malcolm Cornelius

Richard Egan

Toby Harris

Best Lettercolumn

Borealis

Dolchstoß

Greatest Hits

Spring Offensive

The Cunning Plan

Up Around the Bend

All votes must be received by Friday 7 April 1995. If you want a copy of the results (as part of an issue of *Mr Gladgrind*, presumably), send John an SAE or a copy of your zine.

THE ZINE POLL

The result of the 1994 Zine Poll will be announced at the last North Yorkshire hobbymeet on Sunday 12 February in the Tap & Spile, Monk Bar, York.

Rumours are that it is very close at the top. Full results in the March issue of *Hobby News*.

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 26 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, an 18xx tournament, a skittles tournament, and a banquet on Friday night.

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

BAYCON

Baycon has established a reputation as a friendly convention where games players can meet in a relaxed environment. The 9th Baycon is at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon (5 miles south of Exeter on the A38) over the weekend of 20-23 April. Prices are £22 per person per night in a shared room, or £35 in a single room. Registrations or more information from Glen Bird, 115 Greenpark Road, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 9LL.

FURRYCON

Furrycon takes place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend from 6 pm Friday 26 May to 5 pm Monday 29 May, at the Old Ship hotel on the seafront in Brighton. Con fee is £15 for gamers (£12 before 31 March) 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.

The major event will be InterGame UK. 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. Info from Paul Evans, 42 Wyndale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX (email to Compuserve 100031,2035).

MANORCON 13

Will take place at Lake Hall, Birmingham University from Friday 21 to Monday 24 July.

Features the Team and Individual Diplomacy Championships, plus United, Railway Rivals, Rostherne Games, Hartland games, Acquire, 1830, Outposts, bridge, croquet and Intimate Diplomacy tournaments.

More details from Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN (email: info@manorcon.demon.co.uk)

MidCon

Friday November 12 - Sunday November 14 at Birmingham's Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, a modern city centre hotel with an adjoining NCP car park. Features the National Diplomacy Championship finals. Prices to be confirmed. More details from Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich B70

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 Sunday 12 February at noon, featuring the announcement of the Zine Poll results. 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 Dane 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.

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.