

# The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

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Issue Number 15

Printed in DERBY

January 2006

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

**This is not a Diplomacy 'zine.**

**This not a statistics 'zine.**

**is a 'zine about forthcoming games conventions.**

**It is a listings 'zine.**

**please disseminate the contents to your friends.**

## Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

A thinner issue than previously, with fewer of the UK conventions contributing on this occasion.

One item of feedback. Stephen Webb wrote:

*I find it [QLA] very useful and would be quite happy to receive it by email rather than snail mail if that were possible. I don't know where you get your circulation list from but wonder if it is worth asking zine editors to plug it or - if it is available electronically - even circulate it for you. That could reach a wider but potentially interested audience.*

Thank you Stephen. I am sure that we can arrange to send copies by email, although we made a policy decision not to do a general electronic distribution as email addresses seem to go out of date very quickly.

I believe that all the 'zine editors that we know of get copies. The major problem is that there are not many 'zine editors left to pass on the details that we publish!

One gentleman admonished me for not doing enough to publicize UK games conventions, and that no one was interested in QLA as a statistics 'zine. Clearly said gentleman hasn't got past the front cover for some time, as QLA ceased to publish Diplomacy stats some years ago...

I do hope that not too many copies of QLA are going straight into the bin under a misapprehension.

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## Midcon 2005: Convention Report (Jeremy Tullett)

Held once again at the Birmingham City Thistle hotel, MidCon 2005 passed off more successfully than in previous years.

Numbers held steady at around 95, and the feedback that we received was more positive than for some time.

The Events Manager had reviewed our comments from previous years, and was very positive about addressing our complaints.

As a result, the bar was better staffed, we didn't run out of beer, and the food service was much improved both in terms of timeliness and accuracy of delivery, and in terms of quality. The chef's Sunday offering was particularly well received.

John Harrington and Dan Lester presented a joint MidCon General Knowledge and Music Quiz on the Saturday night, in a format that meant that the prizes did not go entirely to the usual people:

**Winners MidCon Quiz 2005:** Nick Kinzett/Steve Jones/David Norman/David Smith/Gary Duke

**Winners MidCon Music Quiz 2005:** Paul Oakes/Peter Berlin/Rob Thomasson/John Webley

We also managed to run the advertised Diplomacy tournament, but declining numbers of Diplomacy meant that it was only just viable. In future, we will run a Diplomacy tournament if there is demand, but we shall no longer advertise it as a major feature of the convention. Certainly, the idea that it is a National Diplomacy Championship is no longer credible. If that title is to survive at all, it probably ought to be attached to Manorcon's Diplomacy convention.

Richard Williams was the winner, with best country awards going to Duncan Adams (A, F, 5<sup>th</sup>), Richard Williams (E, 1<sup>st</sup>), Geoff Kemp (G, 3<sup>rd</sup>), Arnaud Daina (I, 4<sup>th</sup>), David Buckley (R, 7<sup>th</sup>) and Robert Kemp (T, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

It was a three round tournament, with all serious players guaranteed at least two games, the best two scores to count.

There were no other formal competitions, although there was, as usual, a lot of 18XX being played. Otherwise, a number of other games originating from Germany were played, and I, for the first time in many years, had the opportunity to engage in a number of them myself.

MidCon 2006: This will happen. We are looking at the weekend of 12 November, and a contract will be discussed with the hotel during January.

If anybody would like to run any tournament at MidCon, please let me know. The convention will pay for trophies, and will offer a small financial inducement to the tournament director.

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## **Frome GamesCon 2006**

At the moment we are unsure as to place or date of the Frome GamesCon.

If it is to be held it will be between the 7th and 17th of July.

We have problems with venue, World Cup dates etc and other programming hassles that have a knock on effect to us during the Festival, but they should be resolved by the end of January with a prevailing wind.

Wassail Games

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## **OxCon 2006 Progress Report (James Rogers)**

Things are coming together very nicely for OxCon 2006, which is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

We have confirmed almost all the arrangements for the convention, for example tournament directors and so on. Phil Gardner has agreed to once again direct Saturday's Diplomacy tournament for us, an event which he has run with great success for the past few years. He has suggested that this year he may try out a new scoring variation that he believes will create a fairer result, an idea that we are very much in favour of. As in previous years the tournament will begin promptly at 11 am on the Saturday, with entrants needing to register by 10.50 at the latest. The tournament will run until late afternoon with two breaks – a short one for ordering lunch and a longer one for eating it. Saturday's other big attraction is its fifteen-to-one style quiz, which takes place after the end of the Diplomacy. This has been run in previous years by Dave Percik, and we are delighted to say that he has agreed to be question master for us once again.

Sunday's Settlers of Catan tournament will once again be directed by James Pinnion, another stalwart of the convention's success. The streaming format that he introduced at last year's convention was well received by those who took part and we expect him to be using it again this year. As with the Diplomacy on Saturday this will be starting at 11am sharp with registration by no later than 10.50.

Further information about Oxcon is available on our website <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~diplo/oxcon/>. This link will provide you with information about this year's event but there are also links to reports about previous OxCons on the page. Briefly, the event will be taking place at the Mitre public house in Oxford city centre and prices are as follows:

Admission (and free entry into 15-to-1 and Lost Cities tournaments) = £4

Entry into Diplomacy tournament = £7

Entry into Settlers tournament = £7

Comprehensive Weekend Entrance Fee = £10

All prices are half price for full-time students and unwaged people.

We look forward very much to seeing you.

James Rogers and the OxCon team

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## **MasterCon XIII / EuroDipCon XIV** **Cheshunt, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

MasterCon XIII, hosting EuroDipCon XIV is now less than two months away. As with previous MasterCons, there'll be lots of games to play. There will be the regular 18XX tournament and the usual wide variety of other games, as well as the Diplomacy Tournament, which this year will be deciding the European Diplomacy Champion.

### **18XX**

As in previous years, MasterCon will be holding an ad-hoc 18XX tournament. We are expecting more players than in 2005 – hopefully as many as in 2004. There will be prizes for the top three places, including a trophy for the champion.

### **Diplomacy**

The tournament will be played over four rounds. The first round starts at 5pm on Friday, and the prize giving will be over by 4pm on Sunday. If you are flying in, you should be able to catch flights via Stansted provided you have landed by 3pm on Friday and don't have to check in before 5pm on Sunday. We've already had over 100 players register their interest in attending, so we are expecting this to be one of the largest EDCs in recent times.

### **Other Games**

As usual, there will be a good number of players available for other games, consisting of a mix of 18XX and Diplomacy players who are between games, and players who are just there for the other games all weekend.

So, with less than two months to go, it's time to start getting organised.

### **Accommodation.**

The Convention is being held at Lee Valley Youth Hostel in Cheshunt. Having seen it, quite why it's a youth hostel is not clear – it has all the facilities you'd expect in a hotel. The only difference is that rather than everything being crammed into one big building, it's split up into several large log buildings, around a central services area (where the games will be played). The rooms all have en-suite bathrooms, and have 2, 4, 6 or 8 beds per room. If you have ever stayed at a Motel in North America, it is a similar style to that.

The prices are:

1 bed in a 4-, 6- or 8-bed room:

Friday night	Bed and breakfast	£20.00
Saturday night	Evening meal, bed and breakfast	£27.50
Sunday night	Bed and breakfast	£20.00

1 bed in a 2-bed room (twin or double room):

Friday night	Bed and breakfast	£40.00
Saturday night	Evening meal, bed and breakfast	£47.50
Sunday night	Bed and breakfast	£40.00

## **You need to book now...**

We do not have exclusive use of the Youth Hostel accommodation; there will be other people and groups staying there at the same time as we are. The bookings for beds are coming in thick and fast from other people and groups, so **if you do not book by the end of January, then you may not get a bed.** Indeed, it could even fill up faster than that, so the best bet is to **book now.**

### **How to Book**

There are several ways to book.

**Phone.** The number for the Youth Hostel is 01992 628392. When you get through, ask for Karen – she is handling all the bookings for EDC. Tell her that you'd like to book a room for EDC, and she'll talk you through it from there.

**By Fax.** The Fax number for the Youth Hostel is 01992 643984. Mark your fax for the attention of Karen. Make sure you say that you are booking for EDC.

**By E-mail.** You can e-mail the Youth Hostel at [leevalley@yha.org.uk](mailto:leevalley@yha.org.uk). Mark your e-mail for the attention of Karen. Make sure you say that you are booking for EDC.

If phoning from outside the UK, replace 01992 with 00 44 1992.

Whichever way you book, you will need to provide your name, contact details, credit card number, and the nights you want to stay.

## Hotel

If we still haven't managed to persuade you as to how good the Youth Hostel is, and you instead want to waste your money on a hotel room, then the Marriott Cheshunt Hotel is the nearest to the convention, about 1 mile away. The rate is £80.00 per night for a room whether there are 1 or 2 people in the room. This rate includes breakfast and VAT.

However, if you are certain that you want to stay at this hotel and can book in advance, there may be better offers on the web. Check out the Marriott Hotels website before you book. If there are any Marriott cardholders out there, you may also get a better rate by contacting the hotel direct.

The hotel details are...

Marriott Cheshunt Hotel  
Halfhide Lane  
Turnford  
Broxbourne,  
Hertfordshire EN10 6NG  
Phone: 01992 451245  
Fax: 01992 440120

## Convention Sponsorship

Paradox Interactive are the official sponsors of MasterCon XIII / EuroDipCon XIV. As part of the Sponsorship deal, they have provided a number of copies of their new Diplomacy computer game, which we will be giving away as prizes in addition to the usual trophies. More information about Paradox can be found at their website, [www.paradoxplaza.com](http://www.paradoxplaza.com), and information on their Computer Diplomacy can be found at [www.diplomacy-pcgame.com](http://www.diplomacy-pcgame.com).

## Directions

**By rail.** Take a train to Cheshunt station. There are direct services to Cheshunt from Liverpool Street Station and from Stansted Airport Station. The following trains are recommended:

Friday:	Stansted 16:03 – Cheshunt 16:42	Liverpool St 16:12 – Cheshunt 16:40
Sunday:	Cheshunt 16:18 – Stansted 16:56	Cheshunt 16:28 – Liverpool St 17:00 (1 change)

For full train information, go to [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

From Cheshunt station, walk to the North end of the platform (front of the train if coming from London, back of the train if coming from Stansted), and turn right onto Windmill Lane. The Youth Hostel is 100 yards along the road.

**By road.** Take the M25 to Junction 25. Turn onto the A10 heading North – towards Cheshunt. Go straight over the first roundabout, staying on the A10. At the next junction,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile after the roundabout, turn right onto College Road. Follow College Road for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the next roundabout. Take the first exit at the roundabout, and then immediately turn right onto Windmill Lane. Follow Windmill Lane for just over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, past the station and over the level crossing to the Youth Hostel.

**By air.** If flying into Stansted, then take the train as detailed above. If flying into Heathrow or Gatwick, then take a train into central London, then use the London Underground to get to Liverpool Street, then use the directions above.

The full address of the venue is Lee Valley Village YHA, YHA (England & Wales) Ltd, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9AJ, ENGLAND.

### Further Information and Last Minute Problems

Further information will be available on the MasterCon XIII / EuroDipCon XIV website, at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/edc2006>. If you need any help, you can contact the organisers at [edc2006@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:edc2006@tiscali.co.uk).

There is also a mailing list for those of you who want to discuss travel plans, how to book, who needs a target on their back, etc. To subscribe, send a message to [edc2006-chat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:edc2006-chat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

If you have any problems up to the morning of the convention, then please e-mail us at [edc2006@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:edc2006@tiscali.co.uk). At least one of the organisers will be reading this address up to and including the morning of the convention. After this, please call the MasterCon Mobile Phone, on 0797 713 6609, or +44 797 713 6609 from outside the UK.

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### Forthcoming Conventions

OxCon 21-22 January 2006 The Mitre Oxford <a href="mailto:diplo@herald.ox.ac.uk">diplo@herald.ox.ac.uk</a>	MASTERCON XIII Hosting EuroDipCon XIV 3-5 March 2006 Lee Valley Youth Hostel, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Herts	Baycon 2006 20 April - 23 April 2005 (the weekend after Easter). Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford Exeter
ManorCon XXIV Shackleton Hall, University of Birmingham. <a href="http://www.diplom.org/manorcon">www.diplom.org/manorcon</a> 21 - 24 July 2006	MidCon 2006 The Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. <a href="http://www.midcon.org.uk">www.midcon.org.uk</a> November 2006	

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Please contact the coordinator if:

- You run a convention and would like to be a part of the 'zine.
- You run a convention and would like to be included in the upcoming conventions list.
- You would like to offer to help out in some way.
- You are not on the mailing list for this 'zine, but would like to be.

The coordinator can be contacted at [david@ellought.demon.co.uk](mailto:david@ellought.demon.co.uk)

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