

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 19

Printed in DERBY

January 2007

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

*A magazine containing news about various games
conventions taking place in the UK*

Inside this issue:

- MidCon report: now the fastest growing UK games convention!
- Final details for Oxcon (January 2007)
- Information about UK GAMES EXPO 2007 – a brand new event
- Advanced notice for ManorCon 2007

Forthcoming Conventions

OxCon 2007 The Mitre Inn, High Street, Oxford 20-21 January 2007	BayCon Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon www.baycon.co.uk 12-15 April 2007	MayCon Ramada Jarvis Hotel Heathrow, London www.maycon.org 25-28 May 2007
UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites, 2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk 2-3 June 2007	ManorCon Stamford Hall, University of Leicester www.manorcon.org.uk 20-23 July 2007	TringCon XV New Mill Social Centre Tring Herts www.fwtwr.com/tringcon 6 October 2007

UK GAMES EXPO 2007

“Everything about games”

2nd to 3rd June 2007

The Clarendon Suites

2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,

Birmingham B16 9SB

www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

UPDATE ON THE PLANS

The United Kingdom has a long tradition of miniatures games, boardgames and other similar shows dating back many years. However, whilst mainland Europe and the USA have attracted many thousands of visitors to major international events in Essen and Indianapolis, the UK has been very much in their shadow.

We believe the UK deserves a showcase convention of the very best in the world of gaming, whether it be miniatures games, boardgames, card games, role-playing games, or computer games.

2007 sees the launch of UK GAMES EXPO in Birmingham. Our aim is to see this event grow in size and importance to become the premier event of its kind in the UK. We believe that with a prestigious venue like The Clarendon Suites (over 20,000 sq. ft.), a central location to give easy access from all parts of the UK and a major advertising and publicity campaign, locally, nationally and internationally, we will attract many new faces, including dads and kids, among the visitors to our doors.

Players of all kinds of games will find a place at our tables.

Manufacturers and publishers are coming to UK GAMES EXPO to show their best and newest products, the overwhelming majority of which will be on sale to the public.

Tournament organisers will also be hosting their finals and championships at UK GAMES EXPO.

Most importantly, we look forward to welcoming some of the best players in the country, to share their love of games with others, in incomparable company.

Reserve your place at the 2007 UK GAMES EXPO today!

Board Games

In our wish to aspire to an event as superlative as Spiel in Essen, Germany, we aim to provide many opportunities for game enthusiasts as well as families to participate in different types of boardgames and styles of play. We have been delighted by the response from boardgame companies, especially the British publishers and producers of many high quality games, who now have the chance to demonstrate their skills to the UK public.

Public Participation & Demonstrations

We will have super-size versions of Settlers of Catan and Shadows over Camelot, as well as a special version of Ticket to Ride. For the younger attendees we have a great fun game called Niagara.

Boardgames Exhibitor List

There is a good range of boardgame designers and traders many with games to sit down and try out and if you like them to buy.

Esdevium Games representing - Days of Wonder - Mayfair - Rio Grande - the leading distributor of gaming products to the UK and Europe, are running some of the games.

Bishop Games – Coventry based shop with a wide range of games for all the family.

Spirit Games - a long established real shop that has been online for 10 years!

JKLM Games - produces of many board games including Space Dealer, On the Underground, 1861 Russia, and others. They promise a new game released for Expo.

Warfrog - makers of Pericles, a big hit at Essen and a very different type of game.

Alphabet Runner - is taking the mainstream family and children's board game market by storm, all hailing it as "the biggest thing since Cluedo." For veteran gamers like us, this may seem a poor recommendation, but it is a easy and fun word game.

Burley Games - who produce family and abstract puzzle games like Treasure Island, Take it Easy and Take it to the Limit.

Surprised Stare Games - with the colourful and entertaining Tara, Seat of Kings, Coppertwaddle and the funBloody Legacy. Also hope to have a new game for Expo.

Ragnar Brothers - who to some have almost cult status and producers of Viking Fury, Blooming Gardens, Where There's a Will, Kings and Castles, Angola. And it is hoped a new game for Expo.

Time for Games - online games store and educational games for children.

Games for the World - with the successful "The World Cup Game" and hopefully Conquista Hispania, a new game in time for Expo.

Graham's Games - with word games, Dicewords, Creeper and Colliding Circles.

Gamers from St Neots - Games of all sorts.

Channel Infinity - with Abstract puzzle games Pylos, Domination and Dicexion

In total we have 30+ traders now and plan on 45. See www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk for full details.

Tournaments & Organised Play

There are three board game tournaments being organised.

Grand Boardgame Tournament – Mark Stretch and David Norman are organising this tournament. It consists of am and pm sessions each day. You choose which event to enter for each half day. There will be individual winners for each different board game tournament and a Grand Tournament winner. The Grand Tournament winner will be based on your results in the individual tournaments you play in, with a significant advantage to those players who play

more tournaments. Exact timetables are still to be finalised, but the basic plan is: Saturday am: Puerto Rico / Tigris and Euphrates. Saturday pm: St Petersburg / On The Underground. Sunday am: Aquire / Antike. Sunday pm: Settlers / Ticket to Ride. We will schedule a long lunch interval so that players entering every event still have the chance to look round the rest of the Expo.

Days of Wonder Memoir 44 / Battlelore Tournament - Barry Ingram is organising a Days of Wonder Memoir 44 and a Battlelore Tournament. In the case of Memoir 44, a singles tournament will be played on the Saturday and a 4 player a side Team "Overlord" event on the Sunday.

Children's Board Game Tournament

We believe that many games have educational value and teach social interaction skills, aid literacy, mathematical and decision-making skills. They are also fun! UK Games Expo with Spirit Games, Burley Games and Alphabet Runner is actively promoting the use and development of games in schools and encourages schools to look at starting up games clubs. With this in mind we announce the first **UK Games Expo Children's Boardgame Tournament** at our event in June.

We encourage schools to enter teams of 4 players chosen from years 5 and 6. Children can enter as individuals and as teams into up to FOUR separate events over the two days. Each event lasts a half-day.

The winning team will receive tickets for a weekend and over night accommodation at Alton Towers!

The winning school receives £100 of board games to start up a board game club and a trophy.

Individual event winners receive a copy of the game and a small medallion.

Exact timetables still to be finalised at this stage but we will have a children's tournament pack on the website.

Other Events / tournaments

Miniatures Tournaments: Warmachines/ Hordes. Flames of War

CCG Tournaments: UFS and WOW CCG / Yu-gi-oh

RPG sessions: Warhammer FRPG, Dark Heresy, Shadow Run and call of Cthulu

Fan organisations and Games Journals

Tolkien Society will have a stand and will offer tours to the nearby "Two Towers" and other Tolkien links.

Flagship Games Magazine and Games Gazetter will be present.

Yog radio the Podcast and Yog Sothoth the massively popular Call of Cthulhu fan site are attending.

UK Games Expo – Everything about Games

So in conclusion, we are aiming to create something that will grow into the same type of event that the Germans have at Essen or the Americans have at Origins, etc. We believe the UK deserves that and if you do to then we'll see you at UK Games Expo. We have enclosed a booking form for you to use. An online booking system will be live in January 2007. There is also a forum on the site where you can ask questions so head over to: www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

Midcon 2006 Convention Report

So there I was pre-event, worrying about the level of advance registrations for the event, and we end up with a near 33% increase in numbers (to 126) for the weekend - the biggest MidCon since 2003 (certainly) and possibly for some considerable time before that.

It enables me to claim that MidCon is the fastest growing games convention in the UK!

And this was achieved despite there being no Diplomacy (and, hence, an absence of a number of Diplomacy players), and with a number of other regulars missing for various reasons.

Quite how this happened, I am not sure. Better advertising and the effect of QLA kicking in may have helped. Regular Manorcon attendees may be transferring their loyalty as it moves from Birmingham to Leicester, or, it was suggested, boardgaming is suddenly taking off in this country as a respectable family activity. Certainly we had unprecedented interest from games designers and games sellers.

There were the usual niggles about the hotel, especially the speed of service at the bar at lunchtime, but no major problems, and I found the staff to be particularly helpful this year.

Bishop Games (Hazel Hawker, Sam Emmett) provided a stall, and Marcus Wellbourne also had some goods on offer. John Harrington organized a bring-and-buy sale, which Keith Thomasson stole a ride on, also for some games selling. With all of these vendors and the extra gamers, the Wroxton Suite looked very crowded indeed.

There were no official tournaments, but there was a MidCon quiz and a music quiz. The latter was a Paul Oakes production, and the former (at short notice), was presented by Jon Gilbert.

The Midcon quiz was won by Richard Beattie, Peter Berlin, John Harrington and Simon Hayes (Meaty, Beattie, Big and Bouncy), and the music quiz by Team Aguilera, who were Jon Gilbert, John Harrington and Richard Beattie.

MidCon 2007 is provisionally set for 16-18 November, but we have not yet opened negotiations with the hotel. We aim to make it even bigger and better than 2006!

OxCon 2007 Progress Report (James Rogers)

As we move towards Christmas, Oxcon 2007 is fast approaching so here are the final details for anyone wishing to attend. The convention will be taking place over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of January, with some preliminary events on Friday the 19th. Events occurring during the weekend are as follows:

On Friday the 19th we will be having our traditional laser quest and curry events, hopefully followed by an evening's gaming at someone's house.

Saturday will be based principally around the all-new Puerto Rico tournament, which we hope will be a big success. This will be starting at 11.00, with players needing to be registered by 10.50 for the draw. However, anyone who wishes to come along just to play casual games will definitely find plenty of takers for that as well. After the Puerto Rico we will again be running the traditional Oxcon 15-to-1 style quiz and this will be followed by another visit to one of Oxford's curry houses.

Sunday will be as Saturday, but with the Settlers of Catan tournament being the main event, starting at the same time. This usually attracts a very good number of people - we had 8 tables going at this year's convention and are hoping to improve on this. We will also be running a Lost Cities tournament after the Settlers has finished.

NB. The laser quest trip and both curries need to be pre-booked by the organizers. If you do not let us know beforehand that you wish to come we will not book a place for you.

Also, although we do have access to a decent number of copies of both Puerto Rico and Settlers, in the past we have occasionally experienced very slight shortages. Therefore it would be enormously helpful if one or two people were to bring sets with them to provide extra capacity.

Entry fees to the convention will be as follows (half-price for students):

Convention only (excluding PR and Settlers, but including Lost Cities & 15-to-1)	£4
Convention plus Puerto Rico tournament	£7
Convention plus Settlers tournament	£7
Comprehensive weekend entry (Puerto Rico and Settlers)	£10

The Mitre Public House will again be the location for Oxon 2007. This pub, located on the high street in Oxford, has been an excellent venue for the past few years, providing a comfortable playing environment as well as good food at lunch and dinner times. The convention room is booked for the whole weekend so gaming can continue until closing time if people wish.

If you have any queries please email diplo@herald.ox.ac.uk for more information.

Manorcon XXV 20th – 23rd July 2007, Stamford Hall, University of Leicester

After 24 years in Birmingham, ManorCon is moving to the University of Leicester. The planning is already well underway, and all the signs are that this will be the best ManorCon in several years.

Most games will be played in the main gaming hall, which we will have exclusive use of throughout the day and evening. The cafeteria is directly attached to the main gaming hall, so we can play and eat in the same place. There are also side gaming rooms, which we can use 24 hours a day.

As usual, there will be a Diplomacy Tournament, which will have its own room, so the Diplomacy players and the countdown timer won't be disturbing all the other gamers.

There will be ad-hoc Tournaments in 18XX, Puerto Rico, Antike, St Petersburg, Settlers, Acquire, Midnight Party, and any of the new games that prove popular enough. Essen this year was a bumper year for excellent new games, so we currently have about four strong contenders to choose from for new tournament games in 2007.

Dane Maslen will be running an Outpost Tournament once again. However, unlike previous years, he is going to experiment with having a fixed schedule tournament. All tournament games will be played on Sunday morning, in a knockout format.

There will be a Croquet tournament, if Steve can find some flat enough lawn - not that a sloping bumpy croquet lawn has ever stopped the tournament happening in previous years. In fact he's had to get special permission to hold the tournament this year - the University normally has a "no ball games" policy!!!

After stepping in at short notice in 2006, Bishop Games will once again be running the games stall in 2007. There will also be a Second Hand Games Stall, which, as happened in the past, will be in a separate room, and will be open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Having failed dismally in their attempts to come second in the Treasure Hunt in 2006 and so avoid having the job of setting the 2007 hunt, 2006 winners, David Tittle, Sid Ramage, Eric Norton, John Colledge and Kath Collman will be running the Treasure Hunt on Sunday afternoon.

Dan Lester will once again be running the Pop Quiz on Saturday evening. If the 2006 Quiz is anything to go by, there'll be lots of small prizes to be won, as well as questions on a whole range of pop subjects and eras, and Dan playing a bit of air guitar.

There is of course a bar, and having managed to find out that, in 2006, ManorCon attendees drank 1000 pints of Real Ale and 500 pints of other beers, we have ensured that Leicester are aware of just how stocked up their bar needs to be.

A number of people have expressed concern about how to get to the new venue. The good news is: it's more accessible than the old venue, both by road and by public transport. By road, almost everybody will go via the M1 Junction 21 (the M69 junction, 2 junctions north of the M1/M6 junction). From there, it is about 3 miles around the Southern ring road to the junction with the A6. The edge of the University campus is at this junction, and Stamford Hall is a couple of hundred yards from the junction.

By rail, Leicester has a mainline railway station on the Midland Mainline, which is the line that runs from London St Pancras to Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, York and Leeds. It is also served by Central Trains, which run various routes to Leicester, including from Birmingham, Peterborough, Grantham and Cambridge. Once at Leicester railway station, there are a number of major bus services that run from the bus station down the A6 to the edge of the campus.

Included with this issue of QLA, 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. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact us:

By post: Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK

By phone: ++44 (0)1234 405878

By e-mail: info@manorcon.org.uk

The Queen's Lane Advertiser (incorporating Convention News)

Editor : Jeremy Tullett

Coordinator : David Norman

Printing and Distribution: Jeremy Tullett

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

Issue 19 of The Queen's Lane Advertiser, brought to you by:

Jeremy Tullett,

7 Midland Place,

Derby

DE1 2RR

Telephone: 0870 190 1977 (Office) 01332-385322 (Home)

Email: [jeremy.d.tullett\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:jeremy.d.tullett(at)btinternet.com)