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THE 22ND DIPLOMACY ZINE POLL

Ryk Downes has announced details of this year's Zine Poll.

You may vote if you have regularly read Diplomacy zines during 1994, and can vote for a Diplomacy zine if you have seen at least four of its issues during 1994.

'Diplomacy zines' are defined as zines that run (or ran) postal Diplomacy or a Diplomacy variant or are allied to the postal Diplomacy hobby (the latter group includes *Greatest Hits* and *Take That You Fiend*, but excludes services zines such as *Hobby News*, *Mission from God* and *The Numbers Game*).

Zines are eligible if they are published in UK or Republic of Ireland and have published at least four issues during 1994 (folded zines are still eligible).

You vote by listing the eligible zines that you see regularly in order of preference and giving each one a vote 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.

ESSEN GAMES FAIR

This year's Essen Games Fair was as big as ever. There were relatively few new board games but a lot of traders doing good business selling previous year's hits. A lot of extra floor space was given to computer games and *Magic* style trading games but this was achieved by expanding the number of exhibition halls in use, not by cutting back on the space available for boardgames.

Intergame tournament results:

1st De Bloedjes (Netherlands)
2nd Die Legionare (Germany)
3rd The Uninspired (UK)
(Chris Boote, Marcus Pratt, Darren White, Steve Campbell)

Other UK results:

5th The Three Chandeliers
(John Dodds, Adam Huby, Bart Huby, David Long)
10th Broadway Weekendrs
(Paul Evans, Peter Card, Russell March, Dave Taylor)
18th Inglenook Chardonnay
(Mick Brennan, Alister Kirby, Steve Spencer, Sylv)

24 teams took part - they came from Germany, Netherlands, UK, Italy, Austria, and Belgium.

Steve Campbell and Adam Huby shared the individual championship with Bert Prinsen (NL) and Reinhard Feldhaus (Germany)

MIDCON

A final reminder about this year's Midcon, which takes place at the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel in the centre of Birmingham over the weekend of 18-20 November.

Midcon features the finals of the National Diplomacy Championship (and the final qualifying event, on the Friday afternoon), along with with all the other regular features such as the quiz, darts, hobby development discussion and a group meal on Saturday night, and John Harrington is planning to launch his game 'Breaking Away'. In addition, there is plenty of room for games-playing of all sorts

Rooms in the Royal Angus normally cost £85-£95 a night plus breakfast, but the Midcon rates are £26 per person for a shared room, or £32 for a single, including full English breakfast. In addition, Midcon registration costs £10. To book your room telephone the hotel on 021-236 4211 or fax on 021-233 2195. The address is St Chads Queensway, Birmingham B4 6HY

THE LAUGHING ROUNDHEAD

TLR is back and editor Duncan Adams has a new policy. He is fed up with keeping credit records and handling dozens of cheques for three quid, so from now on *TLR* will be free on request but the circulation will be limited to 100, and people who don't contribute now and again to the zine by writing letters, playing games etc are likely to be cut from the mailing list. He also has a new address: 31 Bruce Street, St James, Northampton NN5 5BQ.

STABCON 95

Stabcon 95 will be at Woolton Hall, Manchester on 6-8 January 1995 and offers 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.

ROSTHERNE GAMES

Anyone interested in taking over Rostherne Games should contact David Watts now. The price is likely to be around £20,000. Payment in installments is feasible (though some prospective purchasers have already indicated they can pay in one go). The price includes stock, goodwill and the right to produce new David Watts games (plus the concession for shouting 'One more needed for a game of Railway Rivals' every ten minutes throughout each games convention). The changeover is expected to take effect next summer.

Contact: David Watts, 102 Priory Road, Milford Haven, Dyfed, SA73 2ED.

MidCon

Friday November 18 - Sunday November 20 at Birmingham's Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, a modern city centre hotel with an adjoining NCP car park. Public rooms include the contemporary Raffles Restaurant and a lounge bar overlooking St Chad's Cathedral, and the convention also has the Wroxton Suite and the Ariel Suite (both on the 2nd floor adjacent to the lounge bar and restaurant).

Room rates are £26 per person per night (sharing) or £32 (single). Registration is £10 from Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA. (Compuserve: 100275,203). To book your room, telephone the hotel on 021-236 4211 or fax on 021-233 2195 (mentioning Midcon). The hotel's address is St Chads Queensway, Birmingham B4 6HY

Midcon features the **National Diplomacy Championship**, for which the final qualifying event will be on Friday 18 November at Midcon.

Other Midcon events will include a quiz, a darts tournament, hobby discussion, a group Chinese meal, an entertainment of some sort on Saturday night, and plenty of space for playing games of all sorts. John Harrington is hoping to launch his game 'Breaking Away', and you will get the opportunity to make nominations for the Gladys Awards.

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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 Circester, 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.

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

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)

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.

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 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. 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 hold copies of all the well-known Diplomacy variants and more besides. The full catalogue is available for £1.