

# HOBBY NEWS

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## AGE OF REASON

Andrew Moss has decided to call it a day, and is handing over to Neil Duncan, editor of *The Cunning Plan*, which started out as a subzine to *AOR*, but which has had a separate existence for the last year or so.

## SMODNOC

Toby Harris is finding it impossible to combine fatherhood and running *Smōdnōc*; so he has announced his intention to fold. He would prefer to find someone who could take it over as a going concern, but if no-one suitable comes forward he will run down to a fold. Interested parties should contact Toby at 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR3 1BW. Toby has also decided not to run another *Suncon*.

## A LITTLE ORIGINAL SIN

Vick Hall is taking a break from running *ALOS*, and is handing it over to James Hardy until later this year (probably November), when the two of them will make a decision about the future of the zine.

## FFJDS IN TURMOIL

The *Federation Francais des Jeux de Diplomatie et de Strategie* is having problems at the moment, as its two leading lights, Xavier Blanchot and Vincent Archer, have both started new jobs and don't have enough spare time to devote to the organization, and no-one else has volunteered to replace them.

In spite of these problems, the FFJDS is proceeding with its bid to stage *WorldDipCon* in Paris next year.

## GAMES & PUZZLES

The first issue of the relaunched *G&P* is now available in newsagents everywhere. It contains very comprehensive (albeit not entirely accurate) listings of conventions, hobby meets etc., and some interesting articles. The postal hobby is not mentioned, but Nicky Palmer has an article promoting the Commercial PBM hobby.

## ZINE ARCHIVE

Stephen Agar is trying to build up a Zine Archive, and would like first refusal on any zines that anyone wants to get rid of. Anyone who has zines that they are willing to donate to this archive should contact Stephen at 79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL and he will arrange to collect them or pay postage for you to send them to him.

Stephen is cataloguing the zines he already has, and plans to make his collection available for anyone to visit, or will photocopy zines on request.

## MASTERCON

The first *Mastercon*, at the Forte Posthouse near Coventry, was very successful, with 43 games players taking part in the various events: the Diplomacy was won by Bob Kendrick; the 18xx by Steve Jones and the Ten-Pin bowling by Bob Kendrick. Shaun Derrick is now exploring various possibilities for next year's event, which will also be *EuroDipCon III*.

## BAYCON

*Baycon* takes place on the weekend of Thursday April 7 to Sunday April 10 at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford (on the A38 a few miles from Exeter). By the time most people see this edition of *Hobby News* the event will have come and gone, but here are the details. Prices are £22 a night sharing, or £35 for a single room. The main event is the Victor Ludorum, a tournament to find the National UK Individual Board Games Champion. This is sponsored by Just Games, and there is a trophy for the winner. All games played from noon on Thursday till Sunday afternoon are included. Registration £10 to Rob Mulholland (66 Magdalen Road, Exeter EX2 4TN).

## SUMMER STABCON

This no-frills board games and wargaming event takes place at Woolton Hall, University of Manchester over the weekend of 1 - 3 July. More details from *StabCon*, 17 Davenport Park Road, Stockport SK2 6JU.

## TRINGCON II

Alan Parr (6 Longfield Gardens, Tring, Herts HP23 4DN) is having another of his low-key informal boardgaming days somewhere in the Tring area. If you are interested in attending, let Alan know and he'll send you more information.

## THE DOUBLE SIX CLUB

We mentioned this a couple of months ago after it was featured in *The Sunday Times*. In addition the *Evening Standard* and *Games & Puzzles* have run stories about it. In summary it's a commercial board games nightclub running two nights a week, at Wildes Nightclub, 13 Gerrard Street, London W1 on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 3 am, and at Bohemia, Apple Tree Yard, London W1 on Thursdays from 7 pm to 3 am. Admission is £4 and it is licensed. They specialise in 70's boardgames, but you can bring your own.

## GLADYS AWARDS

A reminder that you still have until Friday 22 April to get your votes to John Miller (259 Leek Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2BU).

## EURO DIP CON 94

In Linköping, central Sweden, about 200km southwest of Stockholm, 20-23 May. Registration is 100 SEK (£8), but this may be waived for foreign visitors. Accommodation is either in a local hotel, or staying with local players or you can take a sleeping bag and sleep in the convention hall. Info from Per Westling, Mårdtopsgatan 15, S-58248, Linköping, Sweden.

## FURRYCON 94

Old Ship Hotel, Brighton from Friday 27 - Monday 30 May (Late Spring Bank Holiday). Features Intergame UK, the qualifying competition for Intergame at Essen, the entry fee for which is £50 for a team of 4, which includes copies of the four games. Registration for Furrycon is £15 (non-gamers £1). Room rates are £28.75 per person per night for a shared room, or £39.50 for a single. Cheques to SFCP, 42 Wynndale Road, London E18 1DX.

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## MANORCON 12/WORLD DIP CON IV

Will take place at Birmingham University from Thursday 21 to Monday 25 July. Accommodation is £19 (sharing) or £20 (single) per person per night and registration is £5 per day or £15 for the whole 5 days.

The WorldDipCon Diplomacy championship will consist of five rounds, the one on Saturday also being the World Team Championship. Other events include the Railway Rivals word championship, United world championship and tournaments of *Acquire*, *1830*, *Outposts*, *Kingmaker*, *bridge*, *croquet*, *Rostherne* games, *Speed Circuit* and *Intimate Diplomacy*. Francis Tresham will be running several *Hartland* games and demonstrations.

## ESSEN GAMES FAIR

20 - 23 October 1994 in Essen, Germany. The largest games event in the world, featuring Intergame on Saturday. More details from Friedhelm Mertz, Alberichstr, 15-17 Bonn, Germany (+49 228 342273)

## MidCon

November 18-20 at the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. Features the National Diplomacy Championship finals, a quiz and much more besides.

Room rates are £26 per person per night (sharing) or £32 (single). Registration is £8 until 31 August, after which it will rise to £10. Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA.

## 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 Friday evenings to play games in place such as Hoddesdon, Tring and Hemel Hempstead. Alan Parr (0442 824173) or Martin Draper (0992 460117)

**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 Haycock on 0332 511898.

**NORTH YORKSHIRE:** Tap & Spile, Monk Bar, York, normally 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, size, frequency etc., together with one or more brief reviews to give a flavour of what the zine offers. £1 from Pete Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 4EN.

**Rules Bank:** Mike Siggins (129 Ardmere Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SB) has a collection of over 200 sets of English rules for German and other foreign games. These are available (for the cost of copying) to subscribers to Mike's excellent *Sumo's Karaoke Club*.

**Hobby Advertising Campaign** and **Quick Gamestart Service:** organized by Stephen Agar (79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL). The advertising campaign seeks to place adverts in suitable magazines and send introductory material to newcomers. The Quick Gamestart Service aims to match players and suitable waiting lists.