

HOBBY NEWS

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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 in Brighton. Con fee is £15 for gamers 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 major event will be InterGame UK, and in addition there is the South Coast Diplomacy Championship (an NDC qualifier), En. Gardel, wargames, Magic, and various fantasy games, 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 Wymndale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX, email addresses: pevans@sfc.co.uk or theo@sfc.co.uk

INTERGAME

The tournament will start at noon on Saturday 22 October 1995 at Spiel 95 in Essen. The conditions for 1995 are that each team agrees to buy a set of four games for practice at a discounted price payable in advance. These games will be shipped at no charge. If the team attends Intergame they will receive a second set of the four games after the tournament. Teams will not receive any free tickets for Spiel 95 but each UK team will receive a grant of DM150.

The number of UK places and the identity of the games will be announced shortly. The UK qualifier Intergame UK, takes place on the Sunday of Furrycon (see above).

SMALL FURRY WEEKEND

S F C Press will be running a weekend in partnership with the Crown Hotel in Harrogate over August Bank Holiday. The aim is to introduce people to the variety and excellence of modern board games. Our target audience is people who play the occasional game and would like the opportunity to find out about more games in pleasant, friendly surroundings. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know. Contact: S F C Press, 42 Wymndale Rd, London E18 1DX, Tel: 0171-358 1613, E-Mail: pevans@sfc.co.uk or theo@sfc.co.uk.

IDES OF MARCH

Chris Palm's new Diplomacy zine, *Ides of March* is now out, and features the UK Postal Diplomacy Championship. Chris Palm, 45 Cecil Avenue, Ardleigh Green, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2NA.

THE HOBBY ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Stephen Agar wants to hand this job (placing and dealing with responses to adverts for the hobby) over to someone. Volunteers should write to him at 79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL.

BAYCON

As usual there was a wide range of games played and nothing dominated. The most popular game was probably 1830, with Iron Dragon (the new fantasy variant from the Empire Builder/Euro Rails stable) easily the most sought after new game.

Gibsons Games (the publishers of Diplomacy in the UK) had a competition to promote their new series of sports games: Armchair Cricket, Club Golf, Formula Motor Racing and Turf Horse Racing. This was won by Colin Smith.

The Victor Ludorum prize goes to the best player based on all the games played over the 4 days of the convention. This is assessed using a complicated formula which takes account of the length of time for each game, the number of players, and the range of different games played and the number of different opponents faced. The winner was also Colin Smith. The top ten were:

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|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Colin Smith | 2 Dave Thorby | 3 Rob Mulholland |
| 4 Dane Maslen | 5 Geoff Hardingham | |
| 6 Steve Jones | 7 Steve Bond | 8 Brian Flatt |
| 9 Dave Nash | 10 Rob Chapman | |

Next year, BayCon will again be at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 April. Convention Fee is £10, rooms £24 pounds pppn if sharing and £37 pppn single. More details can be obtained from Glen Bird, 115 Greenpark Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon PL9 9LL.

MISSION FROM GOD

New editor Kim Head is appealing for contributions for the next issue of *Mission from God*, which is presumably intended to be available in time for Manorcon. The deadline is 16 June, and editors are welcome to review their own zine as well as supplying the basic information about price, size, frequency and so forth. Anyone who submits more than two reviews will get *MfG* free. Kim Head, 23 Higher Efford Road, Efford, Plymouth PL3 6LB.

FOR WHOM THE DIE ROLLS

A new zine from Keith Thomasson, 14 Stepnells, Marsworth, nr Tring, Herts HP23 4NQ, concentrating on games such as 1830, 6 nimmt, Acquire and Business Strategy. Many years ago, Keith used to edit the massive *Griffin*, so he ought to know what he's doing.

NATIONAL DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP

Forthcoming qualifying events at 'Beer and Pretzels' in Burton-on-Trent on 6 May, at Furrycon in Brighton on 27 May, Clacton on 10 June (contact is Mick Dunnett, 307 Frinton Road, Holland-on-Sea, CO15 5SP 01255 812857), Manchester on 1 July (Malcolm Cornelius), and London in September. More info from Stephen Agar (see opposite).

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 Wynndale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX (email to Compuserve 100031,2035).

STABCON

apparently takes place in Manchester in early July. More info?

MANORCON 13

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

Events include the Team and Individual Diplomacy Championships, plus United, Railway Rivals, Rostherne Games, Hartland games, Acquire, 1830, Outposts, bridge, croquet and Intimate Diplomacy tournaments, a pop quiz.

Registration is £6 for one day, or £12 for the whole four days. Rooms cost £19 per person per night in a shared room, or £20 in a single room, and cheques should be made payable to the 'Universities Diplomacy Tournament'. More details from Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN (email: info@manorcon.demon.co.uk)

TRINGCON

Alan Parr is holding another of his popular one-day games events in Tring, this time on Saturday 30 September. Lunch will be provided, as well as tea and coffee and over one hundred games, for a cost of around £8. To secure your place, send a £2 deposit to Alan Parr, 6 Longfield Gardens, Tring, Herts, HP23 4BN.

CORRECTION

MidCon

Friday November 10 - Sunday November 12 at Birmingham's Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, a modern city centre hotel with an adjoining NCP car park. Features the National Diplomacy Championship finals and a variety of other events together with the opportunity to play games in a pleasant and relaxed environment.

Room rates are £27 per person per night (sharing) or £34 (single). Registration is £8 until 31 August, after which it will rise to £10. Cheques payable to 'Midcon'.

More details from Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA.

Information on the National Diplomacy Championship qualifying events from Stephen Agar, 79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL.

HOBBYMEETS

BRISTOL: The Knowle (Back Bar), Leighton Road, off Priory Road, off Wells Road. 1st Friday of the month. Paul Norris (0117 942 7061) or Richard Egan (0017 977 4460)

FAREHAM: Richard Williams (01329 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 (0171 326 0125) or Mike Allaway (0181 863 6413) for details.

LONDON (2): The Small Furry Swiggers meet at the Royal Oak in Regency Street, Westminster every Wednesday from 6.30. £2.

LONDON (3): On May 13th the Small Furry Creatures Press are holding a day of games - and magazine production - in the basement of the Barley Mow pub on Horseferry Rd, London SW1 from 11 am to 11 pm. If you arrive after 1 pm you'll be asked to pay a table fee of £3.

The **NOTTINGHAM & DERBY** Board Games Club meets every Thursday from 7-10.30 pm. Mick Haytack on 0332 511898.

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 (01483 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 (01743 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. The new editor is Kim Head, 23 Higher Efford Road, Efford, Plymouth, Devon PL3 6LB.

Hobby Advertising Campaign is organized by Stephen Agar (79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL). The Hobby Advertising Campaign places adverts in various magazines. Stephen wishes to hand this job on to someone else - any volunteers?

The Variant Bank is run by Mark Nelson, 1st Floor Flat, 3 Kelso Road, Leeds LS2 9PR (his email address is am5man@amsta.leeds.ac.uk). It holds copies of all the well-known Diplomacy variants and more besides. The full catalogue is available for £1.

The *Midcon Zine Archive* always welcomes contributions. Stephen Agar, 79 Florence Road, Brighton, BN1 6DL.