

Hobby News

March 1993

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BAYCON

The seventh Baycon takes place at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th April (the week after Easter). It prides itself on having established a reputation as the friendly convention where games players meet in a relaxed atmosphere to play a wide variety of board games.

The main event is the Victor Ludorum, a tournament to find the National UK 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. They are also organizing a 'History of the World' competition sponsored by Gibsons Games, who have just started producing the game.

The Exeter Court Hotel is on the A38 about five miles from Exeter. The hotel also has its own nine hole pitch and putt course and a tennis court. There is a café on the same site, and two pubs a few hundred yards away.

Rooms are £23 per night sharing, or £32.50 for a single room, with a convention fee of £8 (children aged 5-16 £4, under 5 free). To register, or for more information, write to Bob Mulholland, 66 Magdalen Road, Exeter EX2 4TN.

THE FAT LADY SINGS

A new edition of *TFLS* (the first since 1989) has just been produced by Mark Nelson. *TFLS* is a publication which lists details of all active Diplomacy (& variant) players and GMs in the UK, showing which current games each is involved with. Fascinating for statistics freaks: and useful for all serious players (now you can find out how your opponents are doing in their other games). Here are examples of the interesting statistics included

No of zines running Diplomacy or variants:

May 1985	46
Jan 1990	58
Jan 1993	37

No of Diplomacy games being run:

May 1985	199
Jan 1990	191
Jan 1993	127

Most prolific Diplomacy GMs:

Stephen Agar	18 games
Richard Sharp	16 games

Most prolific Diplomacy player:

Richard Williams	24 games
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For much, much more of this, send £1 to Mark Nelson, 21 Cecil Mount, Armley, Leeds, LS12 2AP.

Y DRAIG GOCH

Iain Bowen has decided to cut back on his zine in order to save money (he calculates that he is losing £72 an issue). Most of his trades have been cut, and the non-game content will virtually disappear, but the games will continue to monthly deadlines. He hopes that all this will be temporary, and that things can return to normal later in the year.

BUMCON 7

Malcolm Cornelius is organizing a convention in Manchester to celebrate the 50th issue of his zine, *Backstabbers United Monthly*. It is from 28th - 31st May, the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (the same as Furrycon).

It will start at 8 pm on Friday 28th in the Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford, and then back to Malcolm's house for late-night games playing. On Saturday at 9.30 am, there will be a trip to Laserquest in Manchester. The rest of the weekend will be taken up with games playing, drinking and eating. If you want to be there, contact Malcolm at 3 Greton Close, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0YR (061 224 0345).

WIMBLECON

An advert in *Small Furry Creatures Press* took John Dodds off to Wimbledon on Sunday 21 February for his first experience of Wimblecon...

In some ways this was a reminder of how cons used to be. It was held in a community centre, with minimal comfort and little in the way of catering facilities, but it was very enjoyable. About 50 people turned up: roughly half were involved in role-playing campaigns, the rest were interested in boardgames. Organiser Geoff Hogan deserves credit for running an excellent event (I later learned it was the third time it had been run). If you live in the South London area, I recommend you look out for Wimblecon 4, next February.

VARIANTS AND UNCLES...NOT

James Nelson (49 Gledwood Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 0AW) has decided to launch a mainstream zine instead of (or as well as?) his variants offering *Variants and Uncles*. It will be bi-monthly, but with games running independently to three-week deadlines and reported in the zine.

FURRYCON - INTERGAME

Players intending to take part in the intergame competition at Furrycon (details overleaf) will be interested to know that the games to be included in this year's competition are Modern Art (from Hans im Gluck), Hare and Tortoise (Gibsons) and Gangster and Regatta (Avalon Hill).

STAKISCON

Nottingham Stakis from Friday 5th - Sunday 7th March. £37.50 for one night, £64 for two nights and £84 for three nights, including convention fee, with no single room supplement. To register, send Michael Rich at Green Farm, Sawley, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3EQ a cheque (payable to Ricshaw Promotions), for £15.00 by way of deposit. Also Northampton Stakis from 27th - 30th August (the Bank Holiday weekend). No prices, but presumably they will be similar to those for Nottingham.

BAYCON

Baycon is at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th April (the week after Easter). Rooms are £23 per night sharing, or £32.50 for a single room, with a convention fee of £8 (children aged 5-16 £4).

Features the Victor Ludorum, sponsored by Just Games, a 'History of the World' competition sponsored by Gibson Games, and a Rostherne Games competition. To register, or for further details, write to Bob Mulholland, 66 Magdalen Road, Exeter EX2 4TN.

FURRYCON

The Old Ship Hotel in Brighton over the Spring bank holiday weekend Friday 28th to Monday 31st May. Rates are £28.75 per person per night for a shared room, or £39.50 for a single, plus a £10 convention fee. Features En Garde! and general board games, plus Intergame UK, the qualifying tournament for Essen. More details from SFCP at 42 Wynndale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX.

MANORCON

High Hall, Birmingham University from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th July. Accommodation costs £19 per night (sharing) or £20 per person per night (single) and registration is £10. More information available from Richard Walkerdine, 6 Honeyborne Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 8PF.

Features the National Team Diplomacy Championships in which teams of seven players take part, each team member playing a different country. It also hosts the "British Individual Championship", which is a now a three round event (the Team event being one).

SPIEL 93 (ESSEN)

Huge games show in Germany, 21st-24th October. Hundreds of inventors and manufacturers display their wares to thousands of visitors, including many from the UK.

MIDCON

19th-21st November at the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. Room rates are £26 per person per night (sharing) or £32 (single). Registration is available for £8 until 31st August, after which it will rise to £10.

Features the National Diplomacy Championship, a quiz and relaxed general gaming. Cheques payable to 'Midcon' should be sent to Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA.

HOBBYMEETS/GAMES CLUBS

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, normally on the 2nd Sunday of the month, at noon. Contact Iain Bowen (0904 640095) or Pete Sullivan (0325 364153)

LONDON (1): The Royal George, Eversholt Street, near Euston station, 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact Vic Hall (081 802 5091) or Mike Allaway (081 863 6413) for details. Particularly important to check details in advance on days when there is an international football match at Wembley as the pub sometimes closes.

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

RIPLEY, near Woking, normally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, but the date may vary according to the availability of the regulars - check with Dane Maslen (0483 721856). Normally starts with a curry.

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)

ADDED EXETER: Thatchmeet at the Mount Radford on Magdalen Road on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Rob Mulholland (0392 494072).

NEW MANCHESTER: Malcolm Cornelius (061 224 0345) is willing to organize a hobbymeet if there is any interest.

FAREHAM: Richard Williams (0329 236125) organizes a get-together at his house, on the 2nd Sunday of even-numbered months from 10 am.

NEW HERTFORDSHIRE: Martin Draper (0992 460117) and Alan Parr (0442 824173) are organizing semi-regular meetings on Friday evenings to play games. The form is to play four or five different games during the evening. Meetings so far have taken place in Sawbridgeworth and Hoddesdon, but Tring and Hemel Hempstead are future possibilities.

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.

Mission from God is the most comprehensive listings zine around, giving details such as addresses, prices etc. and comments on virtually every zine published in this country. £1 from Andy and Madelaine Key, 114 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, GL7 3SE.

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 £1 and a large SAE stamped for 150g to George North, 24 Wigton Road, Romford, Essex, RM3 9HD and he will send you about half a dozen different zines.