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MidCon 93

An increase in numbers attending of about 20%, with 142 registrations, and a similar increase in numbers playing in the finals of the National Diplomacy Championship, made this year's Midcon a resounding success.

A number of new events were added, an old favourite (the darts tournament) returned, and there was a very constructive Hobby Development discussion.

The National Diplomacy Championship was won by Neil Kendrick, with Jim Mills second and Andrew Moss third. Simon Bouton was fourth, Vic Hall sixth, Mike Jordan sixth and Shaun Derrick seventh. The Midcon Trophy (for the highest placed non-qualifier) was won by Paul Clayson.

The Quiz was won by 'Us' (Geoff Hardingham, Steve Jones, Keith Loveys, Ian D Wilson). The darts tournament was won by Colin Gamble and Dave Thorby. The United tournament was won by Adam Huby, and the Subbuteo by Tony Hetherington.

MidCon 94

Back at the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham, on the same weekend with the same prices as this year: Friday 18 to Sunday 20 November 1994. Registration is £8 till 31 August 1994, £10 thereafter, shared rooms £26 per person per night, single rooms £32 per night.

THE HOBBY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

An extremely interesting and constructive discussion took place early on Saturday evening at Midcon. The following conclusions were reached:

- 1 The National Diplomacy Championship will be run along similar lines again next year, and attempts will be made to fill the geographical gaps. Wherever possible, regional heats will be organized by local people.
- 2 There will be an entry fee of £1 per person to cover the costs of organizing the qualifying competition.
- 3 A new 'Introduction to Postal Diplomacy' will be produced by Chris Tringham, to be sent out to all who reply to the Diplomacy box flyer.
- 4 A new edition of the *The Convention Book* will be produced for distribution in 1994, funded by the conventions mentioned in it. This will also be sent out with the Introduction.
- 5 *Hobby News* will continue, funded by Midcon.

THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION

At the first EuroDipCon, in Paris a few weeks ago, it was agreed to set up the European Diplomacy Association with representatives from all the European countries that have a Diplomacy hobby. The second EuroDipCon will be in Sweden in May of next year, and the third will be at Mastercon in Coventry in Spring 1995. More details from Shaun Derrick, 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave, Coventry CV2 2AP.

THE NATIONAL DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP

The first qualifying competition for 1994 takes place in Oxford, at Wadham College on Saturday 5 February. Details from Mark Stretch Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JW (term) or 2, Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL.

MISSION FROM GOD

We can confirm that Peter Sullivan is going to take over *Mission from God*. Pete is currently preparing for his accountancy exams, but once they are over he will be starting work on the next issue, with a target of publishing by the end of January. All material already submitted, together with subscriptions, are been passed on by Andy Key, but Pete would welcome more zine reviews, preferably on 720K 3½" PC format disks (Pete Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL1 4EN).

THE LAUGHING ROUNDHEAD

There has been much conjecture and rumour about the future of this zine, but we are assured by Duncan Adams that he has NOT folded, and that having got a new job he will be able to devote more time to the zine. Indeed, he is taking on a subzine:

SIDEWALK

Mike Clark, having previously given up the struggle to run *Sidewalk* to three-weekly deadlines, has now decided to switch to subzine status within *The Laughing Roundhead*.

INTO THE NIGHT

James Nelson is folding *Into the Night*, and all the games are transferring to Iain Bowen's *Y Draig Goch*, which now seems to have fully recovered from the temporary cutbacks of earlier this year.

THE CUNNING PLAN

Neil Duncan wishes everyone to know that *The Cunning Plan* is a fully fledged zine, and as such is eligible for the Zine Poll.

STABCON

The next Stabcon will take place at Woolton Hall, Manchester on 7-9 January 1994. This is a basic, but enjoyable board-games and wargames event. Registration is £3 in advance, £5 on the door. Rooms cost £15 per person per night (£20 with breakfast). More details from StabCon, 17 Davenport Park Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6JU.

NEW STAKISCON 2

Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street, Nottingham from Friday 28 to Monday 30 January 1994. Features an 1830 tournament and a United tournament. Prices: £25 per person per night. Convention Fee: £10 to Keith Loveys, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0ER.

MASTERCON

At the Forte Crest hotel near Coventry from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 March 1994. Features the Masters Diplomacy Championship, a Diplomacy Variants tournament and more besides. There are various prizes to win, including a return flight to Amsterdam (from KLM) and an Inter City rail ticket. More information from Shaun Derrick, 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave, Coventry CV2 2AP.

BAYCON 94

At the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, nr Exeter, Devon. The dates are Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April 1994. 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).

NEW EURO DIP CON 94

In Linköping, central Sweden, about 200km southwest of Stockholm. 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. More details from Per Westling, Mårdtopsgatan 15, S-58248, Linköping, Sweden.

FURRYCON 94

At the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton from Friday 27 - Monday 30 May 1994 (Late Spring Bank Holiday). Registration is now £12 but rises to £15 on 1 April 1994. Room rates are £28.75 per person per night for a shared room, or £39.50 for a single, the same as this year. Cheques to SFCP, 42 Wynndale Road, London E18 1DX.

MANORCON 12/WORLD DIP CON IV

Will take place at Birmingham University from Thursday 21 to Monday 25 July 1994. Accommodation is £19 (sharing) or £20 (single) per person per night and registration is £5 per day or £15 for the whole 5 days.

WorldDipCon will consist of five rounds, the one on Saturday also being the World Team Championship.

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. Next one is in Sawbridgeworth on Friday 3 December. Contact Mike Taylor (0279-724687) or Alan Parr (0442 824173)

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.

RIPLEY, near Woking: Usually 2nd Tuesday of the month, but sometimes varies depending on availability of regulars. Starts with a curry and moves to a pub. Reiner Knizia, inventor of Modern Art, Tutankamun, and Res Publica sometimes attends. 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 OHU. 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.

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.

International Subscription Exchange: If you want to subscribe to an American zine, you can send English money to Iain Bowen, 5 Wiggintou Terrace, York YO3 7DJ and it will be converted into US Dollars and passed to the appropriate zine editor.