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STAKISCON

Only about 20 people attended the latest Stakiscon, over the weekend of 28-30 January at the Nottingham Stakis, and many of those were locals. As a result, the Stakis chain are reconsidering their support for the event, and the future of Stakiscon is therefore in some doubt.

The General Games Tournament top 5 were 1st Steve Jones, 2nd Steve Thomas, 3rd Ryk Downes, 4th Danny Victor, 5th David Smith. The 18xx tournament was won by Dane Maslen, with Steve Jones second.

INTERGAME UK

The organizers of Furrycon have announced some changes to the Intergame competition. The number of places available to UK teams is likely to be reduced to 3 (from 4) unless more than 20 teams take part in Intergame UK at Furrycon.

For this reason, the qualification rules are being changed, and the highest-placed British team at Intergame 93 at Essen (London Paraguayans) will have to take part in Intergame UK to earn their bye. If they do not take part, the next highest British team (The Uninspired) earn the bye as long as they take part in Intergame UK.

The entry fee for Intergame UK is £50 per team, for which you get a set of the four games (see below) and a set of competition rules. Teams will be expected to have played the games in advance, and to bring their copies with them to Furrycon. The deadline for entries is 23 April.

The four games are **Drunter und Drüber** (Hans im Glück), **GWR** (Gibsons), **Jolly Roger** (Salagames) and **Vendetta** (Salagames). More details from SFCP, 42 Wynnendale Road, London E18 1DX.

C'EST MAGNIFIQUE

Pete Sullivan's *C'est Magnifique* has returned to its former status as a fully-fledged 3-weekly zine after its spell as a subzine in Iain Bowen's *Y Ddraig Goch*.

THE CONVENTION BOOK

Chris Tringham has produced a new edition of *The Convention Book*, containing details of all the major conventions for 1994. Copies will be distributed through games shops and in response to flyers distributed with various Gibsons games.

DUPLICATOR FOR SALE FREE

Kevin Wame of *Take That You Fiend* has a duplicator that he no longer wants, and anyone who can collect it is welcome to have it. It's a Gestetner electric stencil duplicator in perfect working order. (8 Charles Street, Grays, Essex RM17 6DX)

GAMES & PUZZLES

Mike Siggins reports that *Games & Puzzles* is shortly to return, with 20,000 copies of the relaunch issue available in March. The editor is Paul Lamford, noted chess, bridge and backgammon player, and Mike will be on the editorial board. It will cost £1.95 an issue or £19.95 for a year's subscription. Older readers will remember that *Games & Puzzles* has been through a number of changes over the years, so we must hope that this time it'll be here to stay.

1994 SUMO DESIGN AWARDS

Mike Siggins, editor of *Sumo's Karaoke Club*, the quarterly card and board games news and review magazine, is launching an award for the best gamekit produced in the year up to 30 November 1994. The gamekit must have published for the first time in 1994, and be an original game designed by an individual or a group, probably involving design, testing and printing by the publisher and some element of construction by the buyer, and have a small print run. The intention is to exclude professionally-produced games. There is a special award for the best gamekit on the theme of sumo wrestling.

The overall winner and special award winner will each get £100 worth of games from Just Games

THE DOUBLE SIX CLUB

As part of our occasional series on 'boardgames in the media' we reprint part of a feature from the *Sunday Times*:

'The board game is just about to come of age. For a whole generation of us - 23 to 33, say, the first to be bombarded with potent television advertising - board games were as important as whether your plimsolls were Green Flash or the rather unpleasant sort with elastic instead of laces.'

'A new club has just opened in London to cater for those of us who longed for the last day of term so we could bring in Colditz or Mastermind or Connect Four, and hopefully beat all our friends at it. At the Double Six club in Soho, it's the end of term every Tuesday.'

'I arrived at nine in the evening, and paid my £4 entrance fee. The club - which opens at seven to catch the after-work brigade - was already packed. The Double Six has more than 60 games, categorised according to degree of difficulty, number of players and average duration. If your chosen game is already booked, your name goes down on a waiting list.'

EMAIL

John Dodds and Stephen Agar are trying to compile a directory of hobby members with Email addresses. If you have one, send a message to Stephen (Compuserve ID 100276,775) or John (JDODDS@CIX.COMPULINK.CO.UK).

MASTERCON

At the Forte Post House hotel near Coventry from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 March. Features the Masters Diplomacy Championship, a Diplomacy Variants tournament, 18xx and more besides. There are prizes to won, including a return flight to Amsterdam (from KLM) and an Inter City rail ticket. Registration £8 (£10 if you don't stay in the hotel) and rooms are £24 sharing, £31 single. 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. 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).

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 currently £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. 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. 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.

MidCon

November 18-20 at the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. 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 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). The Zine Poll results will be announced at this hobbymeet on Sunday 13 February.

OXFORD: Every Wednesday during term-time at 7.30 in the nuclear physics building off Keble Road. All welcome. The first qualifying competition for the National Diplomacy Championship 1994 takes place in Oxford, at Wadham College on Saturday 5 February. Details from Mark Stretch Flai 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. 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 Ardmore 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.