

After that, it was considered that there were not enough players to make the tournament worthy of the name. Odd small Diplomacy Tournaments have continued to be played occasionally at MidCon since (I think the most recent was 2019, won by Graham Dent) but without being described as the UK NDC (supposedly, you can find the many more for EuroDiplomacy which was held at MidCon 2019 and being at least worthy of an NDC as it had 33 players. And I know that Bradley Grace considers SpireCon 2022 to have been a NDC as he won it. © In my book the “official” National Diplomacy Championship started from 1981 until 2005 some 24 years later (June 2024)

In general terms, the hey-day of UK FtF Diplomacy was from the mid-80s to the mid- 90s. Occasional ManorCon occurred when a UK Con was hosting a EDC or a WDC, but by and large the FtF Tournaments declined sharply after 2000. Nick Kinzett’s article reprinted below in this issue is a pretty good analysis of why the decline happened. There were also regional trophies from time to time (London Trophy NDC at MidCon III of Great Britain etc. a bit of 1982 mainly on Diplomacy F&T Organisé par Rats MidCon, V&S InterCom and ManorCon, diplomatie université de Bordeaux 20172, in Oxford, probably the last sizeable Diplomacy tournament to be completed with 80 players in 1983, mostly players est devenu partie intégrante de la ManorCon, donnant naissance à la fois au championnat de diplomatie (odd peak in the graph are champions explained by WDCs held at ManorCon in 1988, 1994 and 2000) and EDCs held at ManorCon in 1995, 1998, 2006, ManorCon in 2015 and MidCon in 2011) Con, vous pouviez faire partie du tournoi même si vous ne jouiez qu'un seul tour - et de l'ajout d'une compétition par équipe. est allé plus loin pour motiver le joueur d'un tour. ManorCon était aussi

**MidCon and the NDC**  
generally more important than MidCon et se tenait en été – ce qui aide toujours. Les joueurs inconditionnels de Diplomatie ont joué aux deux. De 1986 à 1994, chaque ManorCon comptait plus de 100 joueurs jouant à Diplomacy, pendant au moins un tour.

As far as I can tell, the first UK National Diplomacy Championship that actually called itself that was held at MidCon III in 1981 and was won by David Long (out of a field of 63 players The spike in the MasterCon of 1993 is because the number includes those who played in regional qualifiers for the NDC, even if they did not attend the finals at MidCon. This was a result of the efforts of John Dodds, a hobby oldtimer, sadly no longer with us. At the prompting of Neil Kendrick, who had pushed the idea of a NDC with regional qualifiers for MasterCon, John Dodds (the Tournament Director) drew himself into the idea with enthusiasm. The idea that 1998 was that the NDC would consist of a qualifying stage and a final over two days at MidCon. To take part in the final you would have to prequalify by either (

- a) being a previous NDC Champion,
- (b) having come in the first 7 at the previous years NDC,
- (c) have prequalified at a regional heat (John envisaged 3/4 players per board qualifying)
- (d) be among the best 21 players at Manorcon who would also be pre-qualified or
- (e) qualify at a latecomers round to be held on the Friday evening of MidCon.

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Regional tournaments would be a single round, either at a con or housecon in the nine months leading up to MidCon, the game terminating in 1911. You could play in more than one regional tournament. If you don't pre-qualify for the NDC then you can still play at MidCon, but if you win you will only collect the MidCon Trophy, not the NDC itself. Regional qualifiers were announced for Exeter, Oxford, Burton on Trent, Brighton, Birmingham and Nottingham (all held within other games cons) and other housecons were also added soon thereafter.