

THE DICE AND DAGGER GAMING CLUB

-WARGAMES AND BOARDGAMES CLUB-

This little games club has been running in the area for more than 20yrs.

I first got into the hobby in my early teens. I had been over to a friend's house and was chatting away when I noticed a box with an image of fantasy miniatures on it and curiously had asked him about it. Apparently they were plastic miniatures that you paint and play a game with, which to me sounded amazing.

I had a love of building things and had enjoyed Airfix model planes as a kid and the idea of not only making and painting figures but to be able to play with them in a game made it sound far more exciting than making plane noises in my room with a model spitfire.

Turned out it was the hobby for me, but in the early years finding other players was far more of a challenge. Pre Internet chat rooms and forums, I relied on hobby magazines to keep in touch with the hobby. My summer holidays working at the family bakery in Queen St, meant I had a little money which I immediately went over to Bricknells and spent on plastic... was great to have a toy shop that was open 6.30am.

Eventually in the mid-teen years I managed to find a group of friends at Budehaven School who also enjoyed the hobby. Although we enjoyed going over one another's house to play it was clear we were going to need more space. We originally joined a club at the Parkhouse Centre (which also still runs today), but we didn't remain there long as we began to attract hordes of young kids that parents dropped off and left, which we got blamed for their behavior. So finally we took the plunge and began our own club, running in the "function" room of the Union Inn in Stratton.

This had two benefits. First, it had a place where we could store stuff. Brining trees, buildings, hedges, hills and rivers, to cover tables required a lot of stuff. Secondly it was a pub and I was nearly 18.

The club slowly grew from there. The biggest problem was getting noticed in North Cornwall, so when I was 18 I joined the Gaming Club Network (GCN). An online project that united all clubs that

had to get to a standard. We had to have an account, we were all CRB checked for child safety. We were the first in Cornwall to join and were the only one for a long time. I also somehow managed to blag the writing editor of White Dwarf (the largest wargames magazine at the time). To travel down from Nottingham to Cornwall and put an article in the magazine.

Unfortunately the Union Inn was to close and we had to move just down the road to Stratton Community Hall. There we grew yet bigger with players from Launceston regularly travelling to our club. Though we were there for



many years it quickly became clear parking was a major issue. So again we moved one last time to Launcells Parish Hall, where we happily reside and ever growing now bringing a regular mix of players from Exeter, Launceston, Hatherleigh, Bideford and Ilfracombe. Although being an older class of players (our club is 18+ only), its open to any level of interest.



So what do we do?...

Well we are a group of people that get together and play tabletop games. From miniature wargames, to board games, to role play games.



Its an excuse to get together with like minded people and just take some time off from the rest of the world and enjoy the hobby. We play various games that with

the use of dice, figures and a tabletop of scenery we can play competitive or narrative games against one another. Our games are mixed to people's preferences.

Some like historic games, recreating battles from the ancient past, to Napoleonic wars right up to ww2. While others enjoy a fantasy aesthetic, enjoying knights battling dragons or grim faced soldiers taking on invading aliens.

The hobby continues outside the club. People collect and paint figures in their spare time. Also we often go



to various events. Putting on demo games at large wargame events or for the more competitive, tournaments. The tournament scene can range from local ones that may have 12 people in it to national ones of up to 300 people.

But at the end of the day we are a small group of people who enjoy what we do, that spend a couple days each month among like minded folks for a tea/coffee, a game or two and some good banter...

....after all, what could be better than that?

Thanks. Kurt.