

## Board Games Group 25 April by Jane Kenwright

Our game for April was an introductory session of Settlers of Catan, which was German Game of the year in 1995 and US Game of the Year in 1996. It is described as a game of discovery, settlement and trade and we certainly did all three. We took some time initially to set up the board, allowing the players new to the game to get a feel for how the game works.



Once underway, players were soon planning which lands and seaports to build settlements and roads on to ensure they could gather resources to trade with friends and foes in the hope of becoming the master of Catan.

Jane and Hazel had played before and started off with a cooperative and supportive approach, but it did not take long before the other players became more ruthless in their deployment of the robber (who knew that Sue had a cut throat streak!) and took some strategic trading decisions. We were having so much fun that we played on for an hour longer than planned with Jane taking a narrow lead, although Judith and Hazel were hard on her heels.

We will play Settlers again in May when we hope to consolidate our understanding of the finer details of the game and no doubt have more than a few laughs along the way.