
c o n t a c t

The Eastercon

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contact... has been established!

contact is a bid for the 1994 national UK Easter Science-Fiction Convention - the Eastercon. Such conventions have been held regularly since the 1950s, and can trace their roots to before WWII. Science-Fiction conventions are far from serious in their intent, but instead are about hundreds of enthusiasts getting together to have as strange a time as possible! Eastercon is arranged by a different group of voluntary organisers each year, and to gain the authority to run an Eastercon such groups must present a Bid at the Eastercon two years prior to the one that they propose to run. Simply put, we're bidding in 1992 for the Eastercon in 1994, and our convention is called **contact**. And yes, although Eastercon is always Eastercon it has a new name each year as well - mostly a hideous pun!

contact is, however, a new variation on Eastercon, and we propose to set new standards for the 1990s - and beyond! Although probably not in the area of puns...

contact acknowledges the diversity of Science-Fiction, and the virtues inherent in each branch: literature, graphics, film and TV. We don't set up any one area as more - or less - important than any other, but instead hope to celebrate the qualities of all Science-Fiction. And in so doing we propose to widen the constituency of SF fandom as never before...

Simple, huh?

One way that we'll do all this is by remembering what Eastercon is for - and we think that the central purpose of Eastercon has been rather forgotten of late!

Eastercon is, we believe, the natural entry point into an organised appreciation of Science-Fiction - and it should be valued as such. It isn't the preserve of any special interest group (no matter how enthusiastic, or intellectually pure!).

contact will therefore provide a real opportunity to experience a wide cross-section of what Science-Fiction has to offer; moreover, it will do so at a surprisingly low cost...

We'll keep costs down by a simple stratagem: you won't have to pay for what you don't want. So, if your idea of Eastercon is being in the bar, then you won't have to pay for the film programme - and vice versa.

We'll use the economies of scale to make mailings attractive - and regular - and avoid using the diseconomies of scale to force us into four-star money-pits!

We'll have set-piece elements where all the Eastercon Members can get together, and we'll have individual elements that need intrude nowhere else. We'll publicise **contact** widely, and it's our intention to spread the base of fandom in a way that's hardly been attempted in the past decade. As well as new blood in terms of our Members, our Guests will be interesting and unusual, too!

contact will publish full accounts; only meet essential Committee costs; and return profits to fandom or outside charities. We have a widely experienced (and wholly deranged) organising Committee which includes *Nic Farey, Ian Sales, Robert Newman, Lilian Edwards, Douglas McCallum, Hilary Dugdale* and *Bob (fake) Shaw*.

contact will include:

- context - a major text Science-Fiction programme; the traditional core of Eastercon
- consumption - good-value food, early and late
- concurrents - a market-place for convention organisers
- confederation - the media programme: films and TV
- conference - cheap travel at conference rates
- contraption - The Great Easter Egg Race
- confrontation - hard issues for the new century: an intrusion of reality...
- confabulation - an on-going discourse resource facility (the bar: fine beers and good prices)
- congress - regular feedback sessions (let's fix it while it runs)
- connections - the core programme, with selected crossovers from other programme streams
- conquest - gaming facilities in the dungeon (well, the basement)
- continuity - the fan programme

Our chosen site is an unusual one, and allows us to claim yet another first: the first Eastercon at the centre of the British Isles...

contact will take place over Easter 1994 at the Palace Hotel and Casino in Douglas, Isle of Man. The main hotel has 135 double and twin bedrooms, swimming pool, extensive conference facilities and two cinemas; within the town of Douglas are 3,000 further bed spaces at prices to suit every pocket. Room rates at the Palace Hotel are still being negotiated; rest assured that they will be extremely good!

contact has the full support of the Isle of Man Department of Tourism and Transport and no effort will be spared by them to make Eastercon 1994 a success! With their help we'll organise competitive travel deals via Manx Airlines and the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company; not only is it easy to get to the Isle of Man, but it's interesting getting there, too...

So what happens next?

We'll produce our main Bid Report in time for Eastercon in 1992; join us there and support our Bid for **contact** in 1994! We're delighted to welcome **Sou' Wester** and any other opposing Bids to the fray (even though we expect to win) because we're firmly of the belief that a contested Bid makes for a better Eastercon (and yes, you better believe we'll be better...). The 1992 Eastercon is **Illumination** and it will be held over 17-20 April 1992 at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool; to attend you must pay £25 (in advance - £30 on the door). Their address is: **Illumination**, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield S2 3HQ. We hope you'll come along and vote for us!

In the meantime, take out Pre-Supporting Membership of **contact**; it costs just £1 and demonstrates your support for our Bid. In return you'll be put on our mailing list, and we may even knock something off your final Membership rate!

Finally, if you've got ideas for us to try out, or want to help in any way - get in **contact**!

I/We wish to take out Pre-Supporting Membership of **contact**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

I'd like to help with: _____

If you require a receipt then please tick the box
and enclose an SAE; cheques etc should be made
payable to **contact** (Address overleaf).

contact