

Our Committee

CONF!LICT

Our Philosophy

Chairman:	Tim Illingworth
Tech Ops:	Lilian Edwards
E-mail contact:	Martin Easterbrook
Fan Room:	Dermott Dobson
Wildlife liaison:	Hugh Mascetti
Publications:	Keith Walker
Mushroom cook:	Brian Ameringen
Hotel Ops:	Patrick Lawford
Creche:	Peter Morwood

Our committee is highly experienced and frequently committed. Tim Illingworth has been running conventions since they began in 1937, at least you'll think so if you meet him at 3.00 am on Monday morning in a room party.

The rumours of committee division published in Great White Shark are totally untrue, the stories about mass resignations written by Saloon Snake are also unfounded, *nothing* has changed since our last PR. Anyone found spreading such lies will be sent dead cats, unicorn excrement, copies of Battlefield Earth, the complete Perry Rhodan (in German), a crate of Powzie!, a weekend break at the Brighton Metropole, and a phial of bookworms. If this fails you will get a letter from our lawyer.

Conventions today are staid, stale and stultifying, they might as well be peas in a pod. Well, we promise you something different. The committee has learnt from past mistakes, cons in recent years have run too smoothly (with the glorious exception of Conspiracy), and have been far too well organised. We are using several approaches to deal with this problem.

In order to conteract the "floating convention syndrome", while using familiar faces, we shall use them in previously unknown contexts. Apart from essentials, like emergency repairs to the hotel fabric, we intend breaking up the old teams and bringing in fresh blood.

We are starting with the committee itself. With rare exceptions jobs are being rotated, so no member has long enough in any job to attain conventional modes of thought. For this reason minutes of meetings are not being made, and contact between present and past committee members is strongly discouraged.

We glory in our own incompetence and neither need nor want to be rescued. We want to make our own mess, in our own way, in our own time (and yours). Would be rescuers at the con will have their train tickets taken from them and will be pointed in the general direction of Thurso.

The Programme

In keeping with the wilderness setting of our hotel we intend concentrating on "green" issues within SF, much of our programming is in keeping with this theme.

The convention is set among the first forests in this area since before the last Ice Age. Watch the saplings grow, count them in our tree counting workshop with Rudy Rucker, or simply look on as they blow over in the frequent force ten winds.

The local moorland and scrub supports a wide variety of fungi, join in the mushroom gathering expedition with two of our guests, or simply sample the results in our Sunday mushroom cooking and tasting workshop. We feel this should adequately compensate for the lack of Sunday opening in the hotel bar.

For the more active among you we have stag hunting with Mercedes Lackey and orienteering with William Gibson, for the less active, how about fishing in the private hotel loch? (Please make sure that any fishing tackle you bring with you is sufficiently acid resistant. You may prefer to hire it from the hotel.)

We are trying to charter the tourist train "The Hebridean" for special excursions to the pub in Thurso for the railway buffs among you. For the technically inclined and the more adventurous we have obtained the use of the hotel jeep for making day trips to the Dounreay nuclear facility. Since the forestry tracks are often impassable in bad weather we would strongly recommend taking emergency food supplies and shelter if you are venturing far from the hotel either in a vehicle or on foot in the course of any of these activities.

Among our evening activities we will have fanzine readings by our Fan GOH Richard Bergeron, and flitting sessions, one of the highlights of which is to be the bagpipe recital from Mike Whittaker.

If there is sufficient demand there will be a bagpipe training session at 8.00 am on Sunday morning in the main convention room. You might as well join in, you certainly won't get any sleep after it has started. Weather and wildlife permitting, this may be moved outside at midday to allow for the start of the mushroom cooking workshop. A new convention prize, to add to the BSFA, Eastercon, Doc Weir and other prizes will be instituted at this convention. This is the "Rudolph", an elegantly tasteless china sculpture of a reindeer, presented to the convention committee that most shamelessly exploits the tourist potential of its chosen con site in order to tempt the maximum number of gullible foreigners to buy pre-supporting memberships. It will be presented at the gripe session.

The Site

"This time it's Scotland"

But unlike other cons who make you this promise, we will bring you the full flavour of the Scottish Highlands. We have specially selected a hotel in the centre of the flows country of Caithness so vividly described in "Who's Afraid of Beowulf".

For those times when you feel the need to escape the convention you can walk among the newly planted forests, the first since before the Ice Age, you can try your luck at fishing in the lochans surrounding the hotel, or you can get on the train and go anywhere. Anywhere except Altnabreac.

This area is very unusual for Britain. It has practically no history at all. It was ignored by Neolithic man on his way to the Orkneys, no Iron Age farmers farmed it, no Vikings ever bothered to invade it, it was unaffected by the clearances since there was no one to clear from it, and it was bypassed by all except a few suburban hunter gatherers until recent times.

We believe that this atmosphere of isolation and total desolation will give the claustrophobic ambience that we intend to create in order to get the required number of vigorous discussions and the correct degree of enraged dissent.

Getting there: One of Altnabreac's great features is its sheer inaccessibility, it is fifteen miles from the nearest paved road, thirty five miles from the nearest airport, and a mile and a half from the nearest railway station. We envisage most attendees arriving by train.

The hotel: is small by Eastercon standards, if you wish to have a room you will have to book well in advance. If you wish to stay in a more comfortable hotel you will have to stay at one of our overflows, but please bear in mind, the evening train service is limited.

Sleeping rough is discouraged by the estate and the foresters. If you are intending going hiking after, or during, the con we would advise you to pack your kit well away, or get advice from the locals as to the best place to sleep.

Facilities: are limited. We suggest that you do your shopping before coming to the convention. Going out for meals will also be made difficult by the transport problems.

A Scottish breakfast of haggis and well salted porridge is being laid on for all of our guests, but members will appreciate that all snacks have to be ordered in advance so that the hotel can bring the food in by train.

The GUESTS

GOH

William S Burroughs
Mercedes Lackey
William Gibson

For our

Fan GOH

we have chosen TAFF winner

Richard Bergeron

Programme highlights

We intend using our guests fully, in line with convention policy. Among the innovative events they will be leading are:

Orienteering with	William Gibson
Stag hunting with	Mercedes Lackey
Mushroom gathering with	William Burroughs & Rudy Rucker
Fanzine reading with	Richard Bergeron
(Richard's fanzine will be on sale in the fan room for £8.23. All takings will go to the convention)	
Tree counting workshop	Rudy Rucker
Bagpipe recital	Mike Whittaker
Mushroom cooking with	Brian Ameringen
Saturday afternoon: Highland games including Astral Caber	
The mushroom tasting will take place on Sunday	

Getting There

By Car: if you insist. The best route is by the minor road from Westerdale, it rapidly turns into a dirt track. We hope you don't value your car...

By Helicopter: you'd better be good at landing...

By Train: take the mainline to Inverness. Then take the branch north to Thurso and Wick. Tell the guard you want to get off at Allnabreac. When his hysterical laughter has finally stopped, tell him again that you wish to get off at Allnabreac.

Get off at Allnabreac.

The Lochdhu Hotel is about a mile and a half north of the station along a track. On a clear day you can see it from the station, on a bad day you can't see a damn thing. If you are feeling fit, walk, otherwise use a flare to signal to the hotel for the jeep. The jeep will be automatically meeting the charter trains, although in view of the number of people needing transport it might be quicker to walk...

In Brief

Dates:	April 5-8 1992
Site:	Lochdhu Hotel, Allnabreac, Caithness
Con address:	Conflict, PO Box 1745, Koboldkasse, Zurich.
Room rates:	Single £26.35
	Double £21.35 per night
	Multiple £13.85
Membership:	Attending £28.00
	Supporting £300.00
	Red Deer \$ 4.00

Because of the fire risk smoking is forbidden in all parts of the hotel and surroundings, anyone caught smoking may be asked to replenish the hotel water supply with a bucket. Please volunteer to help as a gopher, giving past experience so that we can ignore it. We are greatly in need of help in making sure this convention runs smoothly. Oh no we aren't, are you really a closet member of the Permanent Floating Convention Rescue Club, because if you are we'll have you know that no convention has ever run more smoothly than Conflict is doing at the moment, the stories about the committee splitting are nothing more than squalid lies put about by those who are deeply envious of how well we are running our convention, and the story of a second competing bid pretending to be the real Conflict committee is nothing more than a malicious fraud perpetrated by the Inconceivable

The Form

NOT the con you always wanted....

But the con you always expected.

Attending membership: £20 Name:.....
Supporting membership: £30 Badge name:.....
Red Deer membership: £4 Address:.....

Hotel room:

Please note, these are in limited supply, so book early to get in.

Single:.... Double:.... Twin:.... Multiple (up to 10):....

Sharers:
.....

Please tell us for room sharing purposes:

Do you: Smoke:.... Snore:.... (please give loudness in decibels):...
Are you: Male:.... Female:.... Human:.... Red Deer:.... Sheep:....
(NB: according to hotel rules Red Deer and Sheep may not share)

Overflow hotels:

(You will need your own transport)

Thurso:.... Wick:.... Inverness:.... Bergen:.... Forsinard:....
Single:.... Double:.... Twin:....

Would you be prepared to gopher?:....

Please give past experience: Chair cleaning:.... Art show:....
Ops:.... Security:.... Green room:.... Worldeon chair:.... Oops:....
Survival (wilderness):.... what level?:.... Newsletter:.... Fungi:....
Hotel manager:.... Forestry:.... Projection:.... Roof repairing:....
Projectiles:.... Bar manager:.... Electrician:.... Civil engineer:....

Programme Items:

Would you like to take part in the:

Tree counting workshop:.... Day trip to Dounreay:.... Huntin':....
Train spotting workshop:.... Mushroom gathering expedition:....
Shootin':.... Mushroom cooking experiment:.... Masquerade:....
Mushroom eating trip:.... Build a generator workshop:.... Fishin':....

SBb
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