

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first progress report for ALBACON 96. In this issue you will find information about booking a hotel room, paying for a membership, all the latest news about the guests/programme etc., and anything else we think you might find interesting. There are also details about the ALBACON Room Party taking place during Worldcon.

This PR is being sent to all current members, all HYPOTHETICON attendees and to all new enquiries. It should also be noted that pre-supporting members will not receive further publications unless they convert to Attending or Supporting membership. (Please refer to the list at the back if you can't remember!) We already have one lost soul, who joined at HYPOTHETICON but didn't give a note of her address: RUTH DURIE! WHERE ARE YOU? If any one knows how we can reach her, please let us know. A special discount membership will be offered at any convention attended by an ALBACON committee member, so watch out for the posters! We will be manning a desk on Saturday & Sunday at Worldcon, in the Fan Fair, as well as taking memberships during the party.

Since we got up and running, there have been some minor changes to the duty list. We have a new Security Chief and although his post is not a committee position, Gordon keeps in close contact with the committee to let us know how things are going. The position of GOPHER CONTROL has also been appointed and the committee are glad to have Elf on the team!

CONTACT ADDRESSES

DEALERS ROOM ENQUIRIES

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PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Jason Cumming, 1058 Cathcart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 0141 632 1268

SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Gordon Nimmo, 73 Croftside Avenue, Glasgow G44 5NF. Tel: 0141 634 6611

GAMING ENQUIRIES

Ralph C Harrold, F/2 10 Atlas Road, Glasgow G21 4TE. Tel: 0141 558 2862

GOPHER CONTROL

"Elf" 5/6 Ferry Road Grove, Edinburgh EH4 4BG. Tel: 0131 538 0862

Email: psico@menageri.demon.co.uk

TECH OPS

Michael "Sparks" Rennie, c/o F2/1 71 Oban Drive, Glasgow G20 6AE. Tel: 0141 946 1737

ALL OTHER CONVENTION ENQUIRIES TO:

Michelle "Cuddles" Drayton - Convention Chairman

F/2 10 Atlas Road, Glasgow G21 4TE. Tel: 0141 558 2862. Email: albacon@srian.demon.co.uk

GUEST ANNOUNCEMENT

We can now officially announce our first guest, who will be a familiar name to many.

Terry Pratchett will be in the city for his first Scottish engagement as a Guest of Honour. He has a huge fan following here, so it seemed like a good idea to invite him. He will be appearing about one month after the first official DISCWORLD convention, which is being held in Manchester, so at least he will have something to talk about - as if several novels, a couple of TV shows and a plethora of anecdotes won't be enough!

ALBACON is also negotiating with British artist DAVID A. HARDY, who is checking his calendar for next year. He was invited to ALBACON 94 but work commitments made this impossible. Let's face it - if you were working in the Galapagos Islands, would you have come to Glasgow?! Anyway, he will be talking to us at Worldcon, by which time he will know whether he can make it or not.

And who will be our biggie US guest? JMS, creator of BABYLON 5, was one of our choices but unfortunately filming schedules clashed with our dates. Bummer! However, assuming he accepts or not, our principle GOH is one of *the* Grand Masters of the genre and will keep you entertained for hours. Watch the skies for up-dates!

2000 A.D. QUIZ - NEWS!

In PR Zero, it was mentioned that the prize for last year's quiz remained unclaimed. Following a conversation with the quiz master, Wilson Logan, it seems the game ended in a stalemate and both contestants agreed to have a re-match in 1996. Now that should be interesting!

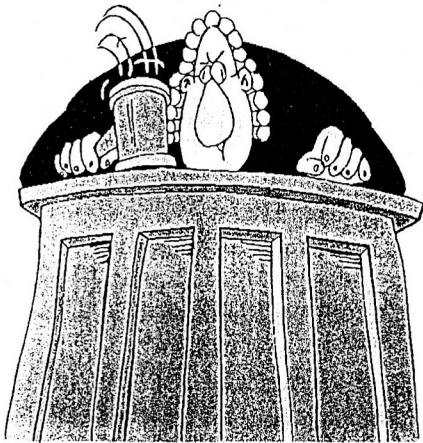


SECURITY STATEMENT

Our Security Chief, Gordon Nimmo, has asked us to announce the Weapons Policy, which will be in use during the convention weekend. This Policy will be adopted for the benefit and well-being of all attendees, guests, hotel staff and members of the public using the convention hotel. Any person who disregards, does not abide by, or blatantly ignores this Policy, will be subject to a fine which may include the confiscation of weapon(s) for the duration of the convention and in extreme cases, expulsion for the event.

ALL WEAPONRY MUST BE CHECKED BY SECURITY AND REGISTERED BEFORE BEING WORN IN THE HOTEL. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded (this facility will be provided on the day) and replica guns, water pistols or similar projectile weaponry, must never be loaded at any time, nor waved around in an irresponsible manner.

Permits will be issued for a small fee. Spot checks will take place throughout the weekend and your permit must be produced if requested. To make identification of peace-bonded items easier, we are currently investigating the use of a tagging system.



Minor breaches of the Policy will be subject to a fine. More serious breaches or recurrent offences could result in a heavier fine and/or confiscation of your toy(s)! All decisions made by the Security Chief or his deputy in these matters will be fully supported by the convention committee.

Special allowances will be made for masquerade entrants and participants of live role-playing scenarios, which will require weaponry, subject to security supervision. Advance notice of RFG or Costume weaponry would be appreciated.

All money raised by the sale of permits and fines imposed, will be donated directly to the convention charities.

This delightful little convention, held at the Central Hotel on July 1st & 2nd, almost never happened but thanks to support from ALBACON and the GLASGOW IN 95 Bid Committee, the weekend was saved! What a relief - it was great fun! Anyway, their committee have asked to say a few words about:

LOST PROPERTY: a pair of knickers, a Flintstones T-shirt, a small braided leather bracelet, a small scented candle, a pair of sunglasses, a leather thong necklace (no pendant) and a cassette tape cover marked Weird Al.

LOST ADDRESSES: if you know any of the following people, ask them to get in touch with ALBACON - Kirsty Bygraves, Peter Craigmile, Colin Dalgleish, Steven and Julian Green, Jim Gillespie, Scott Marshall and John Neilson.

Thanks.

CONVENTION VIDEO VIEWING

Judging by some of the questionnaires we have received, folks want something a bit different next year. One definite change will be the number of video rooms and what is shown in them. Already proposed is a TOTS TV room showing some of the classic favourites like NOGGIN THE NOG, THE CLANGERS, BAGPUSS etc. Also, we hope to have a video room dedicated to British Cult TV, American Cult TV and Cinema Fantastique. If you are interested in running a video room or would like to present a panel, quiz or whatever in the convention programme, please let us know.

AMBASSADORIAL PARTY AT INTERSECTION

ALBACON is planning a party at Worldcon (a small convention about to open in Glasgow this month!) to promote not only Scotland's premier SF event but the best of Scottish hospitality.

Ambassador Kosh, representative of the Vorlon Empire, has kindly agreed to be our host, at what promises to be a great night! Diplomats and guests are requested to wear a badge of honour or ceremonial sash to indicate the planet or country they are representing - it's amazing what you can do with crepe paper! - to make formal introduction easier. Mr. Garibaldi, the Security Chief of Babylon 5, is compiling a selection of his favourite toons for vid-viewing and Ambassador Mollari has arranged for the provision of native refreshments.

ALBACON hopes that some of our members will be in attendance on Sunday 27th August at the CNC, THE CENTRAL HOTEL from 10pm onwards.

STAYING AT THE CONVENTION HOTEL

There has always been a big debate about the benefits of staying in the hotel where the convention is taking place, even if you are a local resident. It certainly makes life easier:

- the room rates are cheap compared to normal accommodation rates charged by the hotel *and* other conventions.
- you don't have to worry about getting home in the wee small hours of the morning.
- you don't have to worry about where to store your stuff where it won't get nicked, broken or damaged.
- you will have access to all the hotel facilities including the leisure club.
- you are guaranteed somewhere to crash if you overindulge or need to catch a few hours undisturbed.
- there is no need to carry around valuable items or large amounts of cash. The hotel can offer short term use of deposit boxes to all residents.

Not only does it benefit the attendee to stay in the hotel, it actually benefits the convention itself! The Central Hotel has just over 200 bedrooms and if all those rooms are filled by con members it means no mundanes. (Except in the cafe and Ailsa Bar, which are technically public areas.) This reduces confusion in the restaurant at breakfast time or in the bars: all the tariffs will be the same and all the arrangements will be specifically tailored to the needs of con attendees, according to those agreed between the hotel management & the con committee.

ALBACON would like to urge all attendees to stay at the convention hotel. The convention rates we have negotiated are much cheaper than anywhere else across the country, especially at such a peak period! The rates are inclusive of VAT and full Scottish breakfast (a continental option is available for vegetarians). In 1994, many people booked at the very last minute, or arrived on the day, still expecting a room in the Central but most had to be placed in other city hotels. To avoid disappointment in 1996, we strongly urge you to book early, paying a minimum deposit of £10. If you won't know until much nearer the time whether you can attend or not, better to lose a small deposit than arrive on the day and end up miles from the convention, in a hotel that isn't as convenient, friendly or might not honour the special rates!

The convention rates are as follows:

SINGLE, TWIN or DOUBLE ROOM	£22 per person/per night
TRIPLE ROOM (limited number available)	£20 per person/per night
QUAD ROOM (limited number available)	£18 per person/per night

A booking form is included with the progress report. Please send the completed form to the convention address first! This will ensure that there is a back-up copy of your requirements should problems arise at the hotel on arrival. Thanks very much.

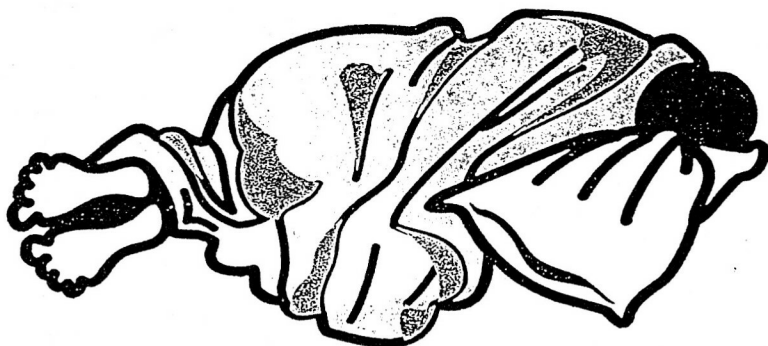
MEMBERSHIP LIST as of 15th August 1995

A - attending	S - supporting	G - guest	P - presupport	C - committee
A A ADDAMS		A36	WENDY KIRKWOOD	A32
STEVE BASTEN		P18	IAN McCORD	A30
CLAIRE BRIALEY		A27	ANN MAIR	P17
COLIN BOYD		A33	DAVID MARTIN	A24
PAUL CAMPBELL		A22	TERRY PRATCHETT	G3
NOEL COLLYER		A28	guest of Terry Pratchett	G4
HUNTER T CLOKEY		A39	ELF	C21
MICHELLE "Cuddles" DRAYTON		C20	IAIN SMITH	S23
CHAD DIXON		P15	ROBERT J SNEDDON	A40
SIMON De WOLFE		A16	STUART VANDAL	A38
RUTH DURIE		A35	ELLIOT WHITBY	A34
MARTYN DELANEY		A37	JANET WILKINS	A31
STEVE GROVER		A25	ALLAN YOUNG	A26
RALPH C HARROLD		C19		
REUBEN HUSTLER		A29		

Well, that's just about all for now. PR2 will be published in January 1996. If you wish information about the convention that has not been included in this progress report, write/phone/email the convention HQ!

See y'all at the 53rd World Science Fiction convention!

"Time for bed," said Zebidee.



Special thanks to: Neil McChrystal, for the cover artwork. Rabbie and the Dragon are the 1996 convention mascots and will feature regularly in publications; Martyn Delaney for the excellent RABBLEOON 5 toon. There's more where that came from! John Wilkes, manager of PHACE West in Glasgow, for letting me use the computer/scanning/colour printer facilities (when they work!); Fraser and Steve for the occasional use of their PC to do convention work plus the odd game of Heretic & Doom to relieve stress! Kevin Ramsay, general manager of the Central, for all his help in the last 5 years. He is moving to another hotel in Glasgow, unfortunately not big enough for a con of our size but we wish him the best of luck and success in the new job! Finally, STATIC, for doing our printing! Thanks very much everyone.