

BECCON

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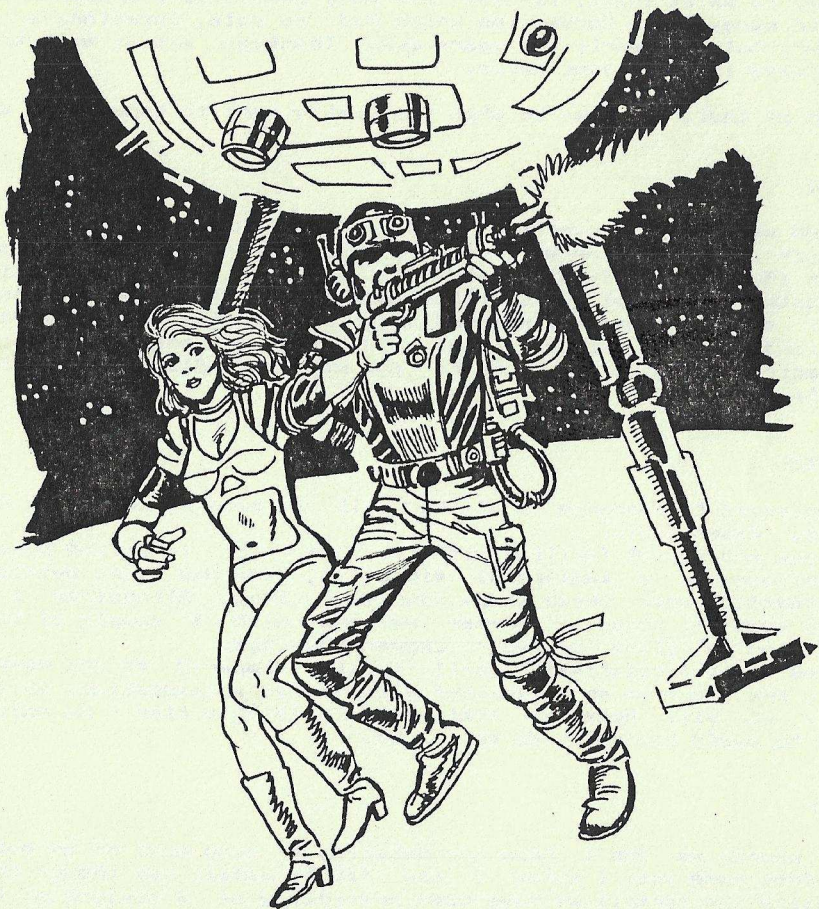
S. Davies

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PROGRESS REPORT 1

Front Cover copyright John Stokes.

BECCON jokes not copyright, as they are all guaranteed over 50 years old.

Funny, but over the last few years I always seem to have a BECCON P.R. in preparation, and here we go again with the first P.R. for BECCON 85. I would like to start by thanking the large number of people who have already joined as I sit down to write this - it came as quite a surprise, to me at least, to see how many people were prepared to pay out their money for a Convention which had no date, location, or Guest of Honour, but was nearly two years away. Thankyou, and we will try our best to make it worth your while.

Enough of that, and down to what you really want to know, such as:

WHEN

BECCON 85 will be held over the weekend of 26-28 July 1985. This is in accordance with our normal timing, whilst being sufficiently before Worldcon (Australia, 22-26 August 1985) so that the enthusiastic can attend both, as some of our Committee are hoping to do. We also believe that it should avoid the weekend on which Glasgow Conventions are Conventionally held. And how about that for a Fannish month for the truly dedicated and strong of heart (and stomach)? Glasgow - Basildon - Australia - !

WHERE

We are pleased to announce that we will be back at the Crest Hotel, Basildon, Essex again. For anyone who is not familiar with it, this hotel is on the outskirts of Basildon in a semi-rural situation, and has lawns outside the bar/convention area which slope down to a lake. Altogether a very pleasant spot to spend a summer weekend with a couple of hundred friends and a glass of your chosen beverage. Of course it is a relatively small hotel (compared to the Metropole anyway), and there is no convenient alternative accomodation, so it may be that we will have to limit membership this time - we only just managed to avoid having to do so in '83.

WHAT

Well of course we don't have any details, or even much of an outline, of the Programme yet. I think I can fairly safely say though that it will follow the formula we have used previously of a mixture of talks, panels, discussions, games and a fair number of films, mixing the entertaining with the serious and adding an original item or two if we can think of them. Our basic philosophy is that a Convention is to be enjoyed, and we will be working to that end.

But to achieve it we need your help; it may seem very early to mention it, but we do need ideas for programme items of all types, and the sooner we can get them the easier the planning is. So why not drop us a line at our all purpose address and let us know what you would be prepared to do, or any ideas you may have for items you would like to see us include.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

Who's there?

BECCON.

BECCON who?

BECCON and eggs (with lots of mushrooms).

ADDRESS

The address for ALL correspondence to do with BECCON is:

Mike & Kathy Westhead
191 The Heights
Northolt
Middlesex
UB5 4BU

COMPETITION.

In 1981 we ran a Crossword competition.

In 1983 we ran a Quiz.

For 1985 we have a brand new idea to titillate your mental taste buds and make your synapses groan in sympathy. I'm not going to give you any details now, but watch out for Part 1 in P.R.2 !

GUEST OF HONOUR.

Since we have only just made the booking with the hotel we have not, as I write this, yet approached a Guest of Honour. We shall be doing so very shortly, and I am sure that we will be able to find someone interesting.

PROGRESS REPORTS.

Just so you know when to expect them, we shall be issuing:

P.R.1 - This is it, of course.

P.R.2 - Will be issued early November 1984, and will contain Part 1 of the Competition.

P.R.3 - Will be issued before Easter 1985. It will contain Part 2 of the Competition.

P.R.4 - Will be issued about a month before the Con, containing Parts 1,2, & 3 of the Competition, together with details of how to get to the Hotel.

Hotel Booking Form will be issued with P.R.3, and quite how long before Easter we issue it will depend on how Membership is going. It will be posted simultaneously to all members.

THE BECCON COOKBOOK

Now having developed a momentum of it's own, the publishing side of BECCON brings you another extravaganza; the Committee have made their meetings much more pleasant by the host ensuring that a substantial meal is provided, generally containing mushrooms as we are all addicted to them. We thought you might also enjoy the recipes we have developed for our meetings over the last four years, so we bring you about 60 pages of gourmet delights and specialities in;

THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH MUSHROOMS.....75p, or \$1.50 inc p&p.

from our usual address.

Other BECCON Publications still available are;

Barrington J Bayley - a Bibliography.....50p(or\$1.00)including post

Ken Bulmer - a Bibliography.....75p(or£1.00 including post)
\$1.50 inc p&p

The Voice of the Shrimp - our thoughts
on running a small Convention.....75p(or\$1.25)including post

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS.

Members of the BECCON Committee will be attending the following Conventions during 1984:

MEXICON 25-28 May 1984, Newcastle.
Sue Williams, 19 Jesmond Dene Road,
Newcastle on Tyne, NE2 3QT.

ALBACON 84 20-23 July 1984, Glasgow.
F.J. Nelson, 62 Campsie Road,
Wishaw, ML2 7QG.

OXCON 24-27 August 1984, Oxford.
Catherine Watson, 18 Norham Gardens,
Oxford.

NOVACON 10-11 November 1984, Birmingham.
Steve Green, 11 Fox Green Crescent,
Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7SD

INTERZONE.

Interzone is a non profitmaking S.F. Magazine, sold mainly on subscription, which pays better than many and favours British Authors. As such, we feel that it is a GOOD THING. The next issue will contain a previously unpublished story by Philip K. Dick, and future issues will have stories by m. John Harrison, Brian Aldiss and J.G. Ballard. So why not send off £5.00 for a one year (4 issues) subscription to;

Interzone, 124 Osborne Road, Brighton, BN1 6LU.

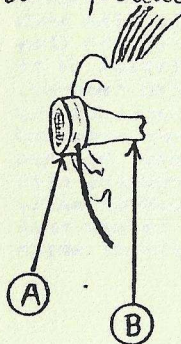
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SILICON VALLEY

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BECCON FANAC

As some of you might have gathered this coming BECCON is our 3rd to be held in sunny (isn't it always) Basildon, and so the time seemed right to mark the occasion in some semi-permanent way. Because BECCON is just as much yours as the next fan's (and because traditionally we do most of the advance work) it is perhaps fitting that everyone should be able to participate in this project if they feel so inclined. In the hope that you do - read on! BECCON has produced many publications that are food for the mind (Fettlefoons notwithstanding) and, our latest, food for the body. What we would like to do now is produce a fanzine and to solicit from you material for this venture. Articles are particularly sought on past BECCON programme items which you may have enjoyed (or hated) or taken part in. Articles are also wanted on any unusual aspect of SF and/or fandom not normally aired. Additionally we would like each group that attends BECCON to submit a hundred words or so on who they are and what they do. We also need artwork and copious quantities of it (black line drawings please in any reasonable size - we can reduce). LOCS, puzzles, and cartoons welcome. (The editor would particularly like a two page well drawn comic strip). Articles or artwork accepted (editors discretion rules O.K.) but not used in the 'zine may be used in BECCON 85 P.R.'s or Programme Book, otherwise copyright remains with the author. The Fanzine will be prepared this year and printed in early 1985 for distribution at BECCON 85. If you have anything to say that you feel will be of interest or an artistic ability the fruits of which you would like to share, then don't delay, write away. To;

BECCON Fanzine, 15 Woodthorpe Road, Putney, London SW15 6UD

All material to be a good photocopy with your name and address clearly written on the back. Finally as a vague rule of thumb, and in order to maximise contributors, try to keep Feature Articles to within about 1500 words. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Quills ready?

Jonathan Cowie.

THE COMMITTEE

We are, in no particular order:

Mike Westhead
Jonathan Cowie
Caroline Mullan
Pete Tyers
Richard Edwards
Charles Goodwin
John Stewart
Anthony Heathcote
Brian Ameringen
Bernie Peek
Roger Robinson
Roger Perkins
Kathy Westhead

THE STATE OF THE GAME.

I am sure you are all eager to hear more of the exploits of Earl Norbert Phetilfoon, gourmet, dilettante, and man-about-the-galaxy, so let us eavesdrop on him at the Diogenes Club, where he has just met an old friend, the renowned Nuclear Physicist "Fission" Chips.

"You're looking a bit pale, old chap", Fission said "what have you been doing with yourself?"

"Well", said Earl "a few months ago I was on the planet Hospitality, where almost everyone is a hypochondriac, or thinks they are. There, I had a terrific wheeze, due to a cold I had caught. Very simply, I knocked on an inhabitants door coughing and sneezing, and when they recoiled in horror I sold them a bottle of Epic Cure for the cold they had almost certainly caught."

"What went wrong?" asked Fission.

"Well," said Earl, "All the houses on Hospitality have moats around them, fed from streams, in order to protect the inhabitants, and thus the only access is via a narrow bridge to the front door. Unfortunately for me the bridges are all very steep and the exertion of climbing all those stairs overheated me, which cured my cold and, of course, ruined the scheme."

"You mean....." said Fission,

"Yes" said Earl, "It just proves the old adage that too many brooks spoil the cough!"

"But what are you doing now?" asked Fission, once he had recovered.

"I'm working on a planet called Psychosis, in the Chastity belt," replied Earl. "There they have a most unusual arrangement for courtship. The girls father locks her in her room, at about the age of twelve, and any boy who is sufficiently inspired by one of the photographs circulated in a magazine has to break into her room, through the door, before her father will allow him to date her. What I am doing is to sell the fathers special, impervium re-inforced, doors to prevent suitors getting in."

"You mean," said Fission, beating Earl to the punch-line for once, "you're simply a daughter door salesman!"

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enrol me as a member of BECCON 85;

I enclose: £4.00 Supporting Membership.....
 or £8.00 Attending Membership.....
 or £4.00 Conversion.....

Cheques etc. payable to BECCON. Please state address overleaf.

MEMBERSHIP.

As we said above, Membership has been going very well, and the list at time of going to press is shown below. At the bottom is a form so that any of your friends who have not yet joined can do so, - and so that those who are still only Supporting members can convert!

A=Attending

S=Supporting

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 008A Ken Bulmer | 041A Chris Bursley |
| 009A Barry Bayley | 043A Peter Wareham |
| 010A Kathy Westhead | 044A Linda Pickersgill |
| 011A Roger Robinson | 045S Alex Stewart |
| 012A Roger Perkins | 046S 1/2R Cruttenden |
| 013A Bernie Peek | 047A Dave Lermitt |
| 014A Brian Ameringen | 048A Martin Reed |
| 015A Anthony Heathcote | 049S Dave Ellis |
| 016A John Stewart | 050A Darrol Pardoe |
| 017A Charles Goodwin | 051A Rosemary Pardoe |
| 018A Richard Edwards | 052A Gwen Funnell |
| 019A Pete Tyers | 053A Elizabeth Robinson |
| 020A Caroline Mullan | 054A Andrew Robinson |
| 021A Jonathan Cowie | 055S David Power |
| 022A Mike Westhead | 056A John Dallman |
| 023A Woofie Bear | 057A Dai Walters |
| 024A Peter Cohen | 058S Michael Kail |
| 025A Roelof Goudrian | 059A David Breen |
| 026A Marcus Rowland | 060A Tibs |
| 027A Rory McLean | 061A Joan Patterson |
| 028S Owen Whiteoak | 062T Hand Skunk |
| 029S Ian Sorenson | 063A Jane Butterworth |
| 030S John Wilkes | 064A Gary Stratman |
| 031S Dave Rowley | 065A Sue Tonkin |
| 032S Joy Hibbert | 066A Mark Bunce |
| 033S Maureen Porter | 067A Dave Patterson |
| 034A Colin Fine | 068A Roz Druce |
| 035A Paul Dormer | 069A Pete Randall |
| 036A Vince Clarke | 070S Douglas MacDonald |
| 037S Mike Sherwood | |
| 038A Katharine Wright | |
| 039S Bridget Wilkinson | |
| 040S Simon Ounsly | |

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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