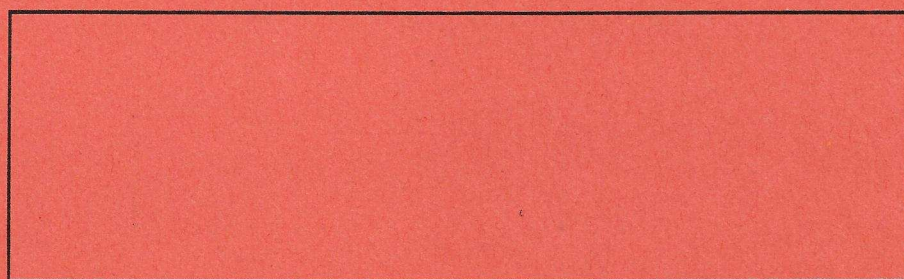


CONTRIVANCE '89

HANDBOOK



(Desk copy -
Worldcon 1987
edition)

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Location: Hotel de France, Jersey, Channel Islands

1> ADDRESS

The Contrivance mailing address is

Contrivance
63 Drake Road
Chessington
Surrey
U.K.

2> ANIMALS

A. Taking animals to Jersey

At present, there is no quarantine period required when taking animals from the UK to Jersey. However, airlines will require advance notification and may refuse to carry animals altogether. The ferries are apparently less fussy.

B. Membership

Attending membership for all non-humans is £1 (this includes live animals, soft toys and very young children). For this they get a badge.

People claiming to be non-humans should be asked to provide a medical certificate to that effect.

3> BADGES

Plain badges are free with membership

Coloured badges are 50p (to anybody)

If anybody wants to colour their own badge, then they can have the badge blank and use of the coloured pens for free. The badge parts cost 5p and we may not be able to get them made up immediately. Suggest that they take their badge blank to Registration or Ops (wherever has the badge machine).

4> CAMPING

Camping out is restricted on Jersey, owing to the small size of the island. Some camping sites may be open by Easter, but it is not advisable to come on the chance that there will be somewhere.

Naturally, Contrivance would prefer you to stay in the convention hotel, but if enough people express a desire to camp we may be able to approach the tourist authority on your behalf to see if we can make a bulk booking.

5> CHARITY

It has become traditional for Eastercons to donate a portion of their profits to a non-fannish charity.

A. Jersey Wildlife Trust

The Jersey Wildlife Trust exists to save and breed endangered species. It was founded by the famous naturalist Gerald Durrell and tends to concentrate on unusual, undramatic animals (though there are some of the ordinary types of animal). The zoo is especially famous for its gorillas, lemurs and the reptile house.

The Trust runs a scheme whereby it is possible to sponsor an animal. We hope to do this, probably with a reptile of some sort - though they don't appear to have any dragons.

6> CHILDREN

A. Room Rates

Childrens room rates are currently £3 a day for cots, 50% of adult rate for age 3 to 11

B. Membership

Attending membership for children under 9 years (in March 1989) is £1. This gives them a badge and admission (use of creche etc.)

Attending membership for children aged 9-13 years (in March 1989) is the same as the adult supporting rate. They don't get the progress reports etc. unless there is some special reason, but they otherwise count as normal members.

Children aged 14 and over (in March 1989) are charged full adult rate and get all the progress reports.

C. Creche

There are 2 creches, though we will probably only use one. This is open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.

7> COMMITTEE

The Contrivance committee are as follows:

Chris Cooper - Ops
John Dallman - Secretary
Steve Davies - Publications
Paul Dormer - Travel
Gwen Funnell - Common Sense
Martin Hoare - Tech
Katie Hoare - Shouting
Tim Illingworth - Chairman
Roger Perkins - Finance
Peter Wareham - Fan Room

8> COST

A. Overall Cost

In many ways, Jersey will be cheaper than Leeds (certainly for London fans) even if you include the travel.

Money saved on things like drink and food should make up for the slight increase in travel cost for people from further north.

B. Beer

Current beer price in the hotel is around 69p per pint for the local keg.

The hotel will import either Bass or a Guernsey real ale and sell it at the same bar price as the keg

For more information ask Chris Cooper or Martin Hoare (resident real ale experts)

C. Room rates

a) Main Hotel

Rates in the main hotel are £20.50 per person. This assumes they are sharing a twin/double room. If someone asks for a single, and the small number of singles have already been taken, it will be more expensive to occupy a twin on their own.

Rates for triple rooms (a double bed and 2 singles) are the same per person as for twins.

b) Overflow Hotel

Rates in the overflow hotel are around £16 per person in a twin/double room.

c) Other Hotels etc.

Rates in boarding houses and other hotels vary between £10 and £40. At present we have no plans to organise accomodation outside of the two main hotels - though we will ask the tourist authority to help, or at least to provide lists of addresses and phone numbers.

d) Self-catering

Some travel agencies are offering very cheap package deals including airfare and 2 weeks stay in self-catering flats. The disadvantage is that you don't know how far from the hotel you will end up (but on a small island like Jersey it can't be that far)

D. Membership Rates

a)

1) Attending membership:

Attending membership is £12 at Beccon. This rate will apply through to after Worldcon.

From after Worldcon, the rate will be £15.

Pre-supporting members get the amount they paid for pre-supporting deducted from their membership. Therefore our members get £1 off, Yorcon's members get 50p off.

Nobody gets more than £1 total discount (no matter how many pre-supporting memberships they've got)

~> Supporting membership

Supporting membership is £6 at Beccon.

From 1st September, the rate will be £8. This rate will apply until Easter 1988

~> Children

Children 9-14 (age in March 1989) get charged at supporting rate.

Young children (0-8) and other animals and soft toys pay £1 for membership (and are allocated numbers in the main membership sequence, but a different colour)

> Associate membership

Associate/family membership at supporting rates may be taken out by full members (for members of their family or whatever who want to stay in the hotel but not attend the convention). Associate members get the use of hotel facilities at convention rates, and they benefit from cheap travel etc. They don't get publications things like that. If they want to attend programme items they may be asked to buy day membership.

II) Rate at Worldcon

The attending membership rate at Worldcon will be £12, supporting £6

III) Rate from September 1st

From 1st September, the attending rate goes up to £15 and the supporting rate to £8

IV) Rate from 1/4/88

The attending rate will probably go to £18 either at or after Eastercon 1988 with supporting going to £10 at the same time.

Rates may go up to £20 later in 1988.

V) One day membership

Rates haven't yet been decided

VI) Converting from supporting to attending

When converting, you pay the current difference between supporting and attending (not the difference between what you paid and the current attending rate)

VII) Foreign currency rates

If possible, we want to take money in sterling.

The conversion rate in US\$ is twice the sterling figure (e.g. \$24 attending and \$12 supporting at Worldcon). The extra amount allows for long distance postage and so on.

Francs - not yet set

Guilders - not yet set

Deutschmarks - not yet set

A. Customs

Anyone entering or leaving Jersey will have to pass through Customs (probably at both ends). At the airports this may include X-ray machines and explosive sniffers. The ferries are less strict, but the committee cannot be seen to agree to wholesale breaking of the law.

B. Artwork

There are no real restrictions on the import of minor artworks (up to about £1000, I believe), but we will get a general import licence in any case. Artists may be asked to sign bills of sale in case the purchasers are stopped by Customs on the way out.

C. Books

There are no real restrictions on the import of books, provided they are for sale to convention members. We will get a general import licence anyway, just in case.

If dealers express sufficient interest, we might be able to organise a single bulk shipment of stock and get it all there at once. This would obviously save on shipment costs.

D. Drink

Standard duty free allowances apply in both directions. The price of drink on Jersey, though, is lower than many supposedly "duty-free" shops in airports.

E. Drugs

The same things are illegal on Jersey as on the mainland (taking prescriptions with you is a good idea). Sentencing is a LOT stricter - imprisonment is expected on a first offence for possession (though they might settle for deportation).

Note that there isn't really a civil liberties lobby and that our legal insurance would probably not cover criminal proceedings of this sort (there is no legal aid).

F. Weapons

Anyone trying to take even a dummy weapon through an airport X-ray machine is just asking to spend Easter being interrogated by Scotland Yard. We think this a good enough excuse for us to have a "No Weapons" policy for the convention.

10> DEALERS

A. Transport

a) Bulk shipment of stock

We may be able to organise a mass shipment if enough dealers want it. This would involve getting the books to a central point, perhaps a week in advance, shipping the lot over in one van and then shipping the remains back later (to be collected or sent on). We may charge the dealers for this service or offer it free as an inducement for them to come.

We haven't yet decided our policy on this.

If only a few dealers interested, we may be able to ship the books with our gear - which we will be bringing over by van anyhow

B. Customs (see above)

a) Books

Jersey Conference Bureau assure us that there will be no problem with bringing books in

b) Other things

We will investigate situation with regard to jewellery, games, clothing etc. Our information to date suggests that only really expensive items would be a problem.

c) Weapons

Weapons are probably out due to the difficulty of getting them through customs. (Hugh Mascetti is looking into this).

C. Facilities in hotel

There is a large bookroom on the main convention floor with a lift from the outside level

The room is lockable at night

Adjacent to the Committee Room

Adjacent to a bar - we will lock the connecting door if requested to do so

11> DISABLED ACCESS

A. Main Hotel

Access to the Hotel de France is possible through the lower ground floor entrance (which leads straight to the lifts)

B. Conference Centre

Access to the Lido de France is possible via a side entrance into the main programme hall

C. Interior of hotel

Access to function rooms inside the main hotel is good and looks to be better in the new extension.

The ground floor is all on one level. Some floors in the old half of the hotel have sets of steps (we will arrange for people to be within level access to rooms if requested)

D. From overflow hotel

There is a possible problem with negotiating the hill that the De France stands on (quite steep - it's easier to walk up the steps to the hotel than take the road). However, the walkway to the new extension may be an improvement.

12> FANROOM

A. People

The fanroom is being run by Christina Lake, Peter-Fred Thompson and Lillian Edwards.

We have some plans for the fan guest(s) of honour, but they haven't accepted yet.

B. Location

The fanroom is going to be in the Golden Lounge, which is opposite the main convention bar. It also opens onto the main corridor of the De France, so it should be impossible for people to ignore the fanroom.

The repro room will probably be a short distance away, in one of the new syndicate rooms. Since these haven't been built yet, we haven't decided on an exact location.

A. General

Food on Jersey is especially good. There is an annual good food contest (there should be a guide to last year's winners on the desk). Prices are generally lower than in the UK and the quality is very much better.

Fast food is available, though these are mostly hamburgers (like everywhere) and pizzas (good). There are very few Chinese restaurants, and a lower proportion of Indian restaurants than in the normal English town/city.

The committee's favourite restaurant is "Portofino" in St Aubin.

B. Hotel

Food in the Hotel de France is generally good. They do not apparently change their menus when they have conventions on, but still offer their full range of dishes.

a) Restaurants

The hotel has a couple of restaurants and should have three in March 1989.

The "Top of the Town" restaurant offers very good value for money with a set menu at around £5.50. (There should be copies of the menus on the desk). It also does speciality nights with unusual cuisines. Some of the committee were there on an Egyptian night - they said the food was superb, but there was much too much of it. (This appears to be a common complaint when eating out on Jersey).

b) Snack food

The existing bar food was sufficiently good that we have agreed they will just supply more of the same. Average prices are around £1.50 to £2 for lasagne, steak sandwich or pie and chips. The pies are apparently made in the hotel and do not seem to be pre-packaged (though they are warmed up by a microwave behind the bar).

c) Vegetarians

The Hotel Manager is a vegetarian who always eats in the hotel restaurants. We do not believe that ordinary vegetarians will have any problems at all in the De France.

We will notify the hotel if anyone is on a restricted diet, there will be a question to this effect on the hotel booking form. The hotel have so far proved happy to comply with our every request for special catering (they seem to look at it as a challenge for some reason).

14> GUESTS OF HONOUR

A. Main Guests

Main guests of honour are Anne McCaffrey and M. John Harrison.

We also hope to invite a French comics artist.

Further suggestions are welcome, provided they are realistic.

15> HOMOSEXUALITY

This is still illegal at present on Jersey

The EEC have declared this to be in contravention of European law

The Home Office are currently working on legalising homosexuality in Jersey

We have reason to believe that the law is generally ignored

16> HOTEL

A. Breakfast

Breakfast will be help yourself style for both full English breakfast and continental breakfast (which includes cold meats, cheeses, sweet rolls etc. as well as toast and croissants)

17> LANGUAGE

The language of the Channel Islands is English. A lot of the population also speak French (or a Normandy-style dialect of French). Almost all signs are either in English or are bilingual. Road signs, etc. all follow the UK (cars drive on the left).

18> MEDICAL

If you are entitled to free NHS treatment, and show proof of UK residence (using form P111), you get free hospital treatment and ambulance travel.

You have to pay for prescription medicines, dental work and treatment at a doctor's surgery.

We are looking into getting a special bulk medical insurance to cover these items.

Convention insurance should cover emergency medical costs or flight home (can't guarantee this for non-UK residents)

19> MEMBERSHIP

A. Pre-supports

The list of pre-supporting members in the bid report is missing 10 people. This is because the receipt book was not handed in until after the list was produced. If anyone claims to be a pre-supporting member, but isn't on the list, ask to see a receipt or check with a committee member (preferably Tim or John)

B. Categories

The possible categories of membership are:

- Pre-supporting
- Supporting
- Attending
- Soft Toy/Child/Animal
- Associate

C. Cost

See Section 4.D

20> MONEY

A. Banks

These banks have St Helier, Jersey branches which they say can be used like UK branches:

Midland (0534-73696)
Nat West (0534-72810)
Barclays (0534-78511)
Lloyds (0534-73551)
TSB (0534-27306)
Bank of Scotland (0534-38855)
Royal Bank of Scotland (0534-27351)

The first five all have cash machines.

Clydsdale operates through Midland, but do not appear to be very organised.

Co-Op Bank operates through the Jersey Co-Op society (0534-79822). You can cash cheques and make deposits, but that's about all.

B. Post Office

Jersey Post Office (0534-26262) is separate from UK, but closely linked. Post, National Savings & Girobank are operated, DHSS payments by arrangement.

C. Building Societies

Building Societies do not appear to exist on Jersey.

D. Credit cards

Barclaycard (Visa), Access (Master Card) and Amex credit cards are all as per UK.

21> OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

A. USA

Bill & Mary Burns
23 Kensington Court
Hempstead
NY 11550
USA

B. Scandanavia

Mats Claesson
c/o Bjork
Saltamatang 12
11359 Stockholm
Sweden

C. Far East

Andrew Hall
Flat 403,
15B Ming On Street
Hung Hom
Kowloon
Hong Kong

22> ROTA FOR CONTRIVANCE DESK AT WORLDCON

Desk to be open 11a.m. to 6p.m.

A. Committee members in charge

	11	12	14	16	Tidy-up
Wed	-	-	Tim	John	Tim
Thur	Tim	Paul	Steve	John	Paul
Fri	Paul	John	Steve	Roger	Roger
Sat	Roger	Tim	Paul	Steve	Steve
Sun	Steve	John	Tim	Roger	Paul
Mon	Paul	Tim	John	Roger	All

B. People actually manning the desk

	11	12	14	16	Tidy-up
Wed					
Thur					
Fri					
Sat					
Sun					
Mon					

23> SOFT TOYS

A. Membership

Attending membership for all non-humans is £1 (this includes soft toys, live animals and very young children). For this they get a badge.

24> T-SHIRTS

A. Prices

All T-shirts are £^{4.50} sterling

B. Colours and sizes

T-shirts are available in Green, Red and Turquoise (a few sky-blue are available in extra-large only). The Old-Gold shirts are reserved for the committee.

Sizes are Small, Medium, Large and Extra-Large. Note that British T-Shirt sizes are smaller than American sizes. We can get XXL shirts done, if there is sufficient demand, but it will take up to three

weeks to get them.

25> TRANSPORT

A. To the convention

a) Ferry

I) Cost

We hope to designate a preferred ferry which will have a registration desk on it and will have a lower fare (about £28) than the standard discount fare (about £32). Normal ferry rates are £50-60.

Note that cars and other vehicles are also charged a fare, roughly equivalent to that for one person.

II) Safety

Obviously, the Zeebrugge disaster is still fresh in people's minds. We are assured that, even including the new accident figures, traveling by ferry is still safer than driving in the UK. Furthermore, the ferries on the Jersey run are all single deckers, so are not prone to capsizing. Since the courts have not given a decision as to the cause of the sinking, we cannot really second-guess them but we don't consider there to be a significant risk.

b) Plane

The standard return airfare from London is around £70. British Air Ferries are currently quoting £60 including rail travel to the airport from anywhere in the south of England (£80 from Glasgow).

The only way to reduce this much further is to organise a charter. We will do this if there is sufficient demand (probable cost - £40 return, from the south coast).

B. From ferry/plane to the hotel

a) Coaches

We will arrange for coaches to meet the designated car ferry from Portsmouth as well as selected plane flights. Other ferries may be met if we get sufficient advance warning.

b) Car Hire

Car hire is very cheap on Jersey. A hatchback costs about £6 per day. Recently some airlines have been offering a day's free car hire with tickets to Jersey (useful for groups of 3-4).

We are thinking about having an official car-hire firm for the convention (if this will lower the rates even further).

C. From other hotels

We are told that there are 3000 beds in hotels within 10 minutes walk of the De France. We counted over twenty hotels within 5 minutes walk.

26> VIDEO

The video was provided by the Jersey Tourist Board. The sound track is of little consequence so we did not bother to bring a proper TV with speakers. If people really want to hear the sound track, we might be able to arrange it but it would cause a lot of problems.

27> WEEKLY MEETINGS

Contrivance meet weekly at the Skinner's Arms pub near St Pancras station in London. There are usually at least a couple of committee members there between 8 and 10 p.m. If someone wants to make a suggestion, ask about something (or even complain) then they may come along and do so rather than writing to the committee address.