

Helicon Presentation

TIMING COPY

- \*[111;00000;I1] (certificate)
- \*[010;00000;I2] start tape (23rd Century Tribble Productions)
- 9 \* [110;00000;I3] (Eastercon)
- 13 \* [001;00000;I4] (Episode 44)
- 17 \* [010;00000;I5] (Helicon)

It is a dark time for writers of productions. The galactic supply of big flying letters is at an all-time low and Eastercon bids are forced to make do with cheap voice overs.

- \*[111;00000;I6] Since the end of Contrivance times have not been easy for the leader of the Jersey Committee. Chairman Grand SMOF Illingworth has returned
- \*[101;00000;I7] to the NOREASCON system to complete his training under the Jedi master Obi Wan Yalow. Emerging with a new band of rebels he vows to continue the fight to establish tax-free off-shore conventions.
- \*[100;00000;I8] With Princess Kathy Westhead,
- \*[001;00000;I9] smuggler Martin Hoare and his co-pilot, the mighty Wookie, Chris Cooper;
- \*[010;00000;I10] Illingworth has joined forces with the chief Ewok, Martin Easterbrook.
- \*[100;00000;I11] Meanwhile Mike Westhead, Steve Davies and Rob Meades look on, far too sensible to get involved in this idiocy,
- \*[001;00000;I12] and John Richards on the bridge of the USS Enterprise realises, with mounting horror, that he is in the wrong skit.
- \*[111;00000;C1] In forming the Helicon committee we have tried to put together a group which combines experience, enthusiasm and an ability to get very silly when circumstances demand. With in-depth involvement in conventions of every size from Worldcon to 30-Con and experience in just about all areas of fandom we feel that we have achieved this.
- \*[110;00000;C2] Tim Illingworth was chairman of Contrivance, ran the Ops room at Confiction and is part of the Glasgow in 95 Worldcon bid.
- \*[001;00000;C3] For some years his appearance has been the signal for outbursts of panic amongst a growing group of fans whom Tim has "involved" in things.
- \*[111;00000;C4] The Treasurer, Rob Meades is almost criminally young compared with the rest of the committee.
- \*[001;00000;C5] Part of Contrivance and Reconnaissance he is perhaps best known for the work he has put in with Friends of Foundation and for co-editing the two Drabble Projects.
- \*[111;00000;C6] Mike Westhead has a portrait in the attic. While Mike gets older and more wizened, the portrait stays just the same - something wrong somewhere?
- \*[001;00000;C7] Mike was part of the ongoing Becon committee and has kept a house of fannish repute at 191 the Heights for many years.

- \*[111;00000;C8] Kathy Westhead is perhaps even more dangerous than Tim Illingworth in convincing people that they really want to help,
- \*[001;00000;C9] or at least hand over all of their money. She is also involved with the Glasgow in 95 Worldcon bid.
- \*[111;00000;C10] Steve Davies, another survivor of Contrivance, was horrified to discover that his first Eastercon committee was being held up as an example of what old-timers could do if they tried.
- \*[001;00000;C11] He also claims to have a far better singing voice than the rest of the committee.
- \*[111;00000;C12] Chris Cooper was a trouble shooter at Confiction, and is someone else who can turn their hand to just about anything -
- \*[001;00000;C13] especially if someone can convince him that there is alcohol involved.
- \*[111;00000;C14] Martin Easterbrook, surprisingly, has only been on the committee of one Eastercon before: when he became co-chairman of East'con. On the other hand he has been around for ever behind the scenes.
- \*[001;00000;C15] He is part of the Glasgow in '95 committee and is responsible, with Margaret Austin, for the monthly newszine, Small Mammal.
- \*[111;00000;C16] Martin Hoare was the Ops supremo at Confiction. He got his first taste of running conventions with
- \*[001;00000;C17] Novacon 7 back in the neolithic age and has been clocking up the miles ever since.
- \*[111;00000;C18] John Richards was part of the first two Wincon committees and wrote this description,
- \*[001;00000;C19] which is therefore remarkably bland.

In addition to this core group Helicon will be reaching out to dragoon hapless "volunteers" with one of the most fearsome press-gangs known to fan. Enough about the committee. How about the hotel?

- \*[111;00000;H1] Last October, we made an initial visit to the Hotel de France. Throughout the weekend, Hotel staff were asking us how soon we could run another Eastercon. Even the hotel owner seemed enthusiastic
- \*[010;00000;H2] and the conference manager came in specially to talk to us although he was meant to be on holiday.
- \*[111;00000;H3] Despite the cheap rates the idea of reduced service has never been considered an option - an attitude notably lacking in some other convention hotels.
- \*[111;00000;H4] The general enthusiasm combined with staff who are prepared to become involved with proceedings - or even light fittings - and a generally high standard make the de France one of the best convention sites around.
- \*[111;00000;H5] As normal on Jersey, the bar prices are lower than on the mainland. At our last visit, beer in the hotel cost a pound a pint, while in the pubs in town it was about sixty-five pence. Pints of Orange Juice will be available for no more than the price of beer
- \*[010;00000;H6] The hotel food is also good and cheap, and they will be doing fast service meals throughout the day.
- \*[111;00000;H7] And of course, the hotel has all the usual amenities, such as a fitness centre, swimming pool and chocolate shop.

- \*[111;00000;B1] There are about 650 beds in the Hotel de France.
- \*[001;00000;B2] Room rates are £25.00 per person per night for a twin or double room. This price does not include VAT, because there is no VAT on Jersey
- \*[101;00000;B3] Single rooms are also available at £32.00 per person
- \*[101;00000;B4] with triples at £22.00 per person.
- \*[111;00000;B5] The Rosebank Hotel, on the same site, has rates of
- \*[100;00000;B6] £19 per person twin or double
- \*[001;00000;B7] and £24 single. All these prices include full breakfast and,
- \*[011;00000;B8] if you stay for 7 or more nights, there will be a further discount of 5 percent.
  
- \*[111;00000;P1] Helicon's programme will include all the traditional Eastercon favourites, some of them transmuted into strange and wonderful purple prose. Our two main programme streams will be divided among three halls:
- \*[111;00000;P2] The Empire which you may remember as the main hall at Contrivance
- \*[111;00000;P3] The Starlight at the other end of the hotel where we will hold the banquet;
- \*[111;00000;P4] The Lido Theatre where we will be putting on the extravaganzas, such as the Masquerade, Filk Concert and a play.
- \*[111;00000;P5] In addition we have six smaller rooms which we will be using for audience participation items, including the fan room, workshops and
- \*[111;00000;P6] a number of discussion circles which will be designed to get as many people as possible involved. We also have a full 35mm cinema on site.
- \*[111;00000;P7] We are planning to put the book room and art show in the Skyline where, we trust, there will not be too much crowding.
- \*[111;00000;P8] The banquet and Awards ceremony on Sunday night will be followed by a disco in Madison's night-club on site.
- \*[111;00000;P9] We intend to start programming from Thursday afternoon to promote a relaxed feel to the convention and to allow us to get in all the things that we'd really like to run without giving ourselves too many nervous breakdowns.
- \*[111;00000;P10] Professional Guests from both sides of the Atlantic have accepted our invitation and will help us put together an Eastercon with a truly international feel.
- \*[110;00000;P11] In keeping with this aim we intend to bid for the Eurocon and will in any case be going for a European outlook to the convention.

- \*[111;00000;T1] As you can see, it is easy to get to St Helier.
- \*[111;00000;T2] But to help you get to Helicon, we will be liaising with Modernline Travel to arrange ferries and flights. By dealing with the same company as in 1989 we should be able to provide a sympathetic service with the flexibility required by fandom. Of course, fans can also make their own arrangements locally where this is to their advantage.
- \*[101;00000;T3] This time we will be concentrating more on flights since of the 500 people who arranged travel through the convention last time over 350 came by air. Since Easter is later in the year than 1989 several of the problems with winter schedules should not recur.
- \*[111;00000;J1] The island of Jersey is a major tourist destination and with good reason. The climate is excellent, the food is good - particularly if you're into sea food - and the beer is cheap.
- \*[001;00000;J2] There is still no VAT on Jersey, and you can bring back a full duty-free allowance.
- \*[110;00000;C1] All in all we feel that the advantages provided by the site for communication with the continent and the levels of service provided by the hotel at rates competitive with conventions being held this year make Jersey a venue that is just too good to ignore.
- \*[101;00000;C2] Mixing a site of this quality with a committee which matches experience and enthusiasm with sheer nervous energy should produce a science fiction convention with large amounts of fun and games thrown in.

To end with, ... here are some slides of a convention we prepared earlier. Help us do even better in 1993, and vote for Helicon.

- \*[111;00000;R1.1] Dermot & Bobby / Film crew / All Tech crew
- 3.75 \*[100;00000;R1.2] Martin & L-C / /
- 7.5 \*[010;00000;R1.3] / Martin & L-C /
- 11.15 \*[001;00000;R1.4] / / Stan & L-C
- 15.00 \*[111;00000;R2.1] TI, RP & Tech / Dov (shaman) / Pat & extinguisher
- 18.75 \*[010;00000;R2.2] / Annie at zoo /
- 22.5 \*[100;00000;R2.3] LindaM on slide / /
- 26.25 \*[001;00000;R2.4] / / IainD at zoo
- 30-33.33 \*[111;00000;R3.1] Perdy & drink / Weller / ANGMH & gun
- 1.36.50 \*[001;00000;R3.2] / / Two people on hotel steps
- 1.40 \*[010;00000;R3.3] / Registration /
- 1.43.50 \*[100;00000;R3.4] Reception & TP / /
- 1.47 \*[101;00000;R3.5] Ops group / / PRD & wallyphone
- 1.50.00 \*[111;00000;R4.1] Helicon / Lift SL & LW / Lift PW & RM
- 1.52.50 \*[011;00000;R4.2] / Jersey / Chair pyramid
- 1.54.50 \*[001;00000;R4.3] / / 1993
- \*[111;00000;R5]