

PARAGON2
BYBYGONS

Eastercon: The British National Science Fiction Convention

25th-28th March 2005
Hanover International
Hinckley

Progress Report 3 November 2004

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Guests of Honour

John & Eve Harvey
Ken MacLeod
Robert Rankin

Ben Jeapes
Richard Morgan

Committee

Fran Dowd..... Sofa
James Bacon..... Programme
Julia Daly..... Programme
John Dowd Memberships, Hotel Bookings &
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PR advertising rates

Full Page:
Fan £35 Professional £75
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Special arrangements can be made for
leaflets or exchanges of ads

From the Depths of the Sofa

by Fran Dowd

Hello again. First things first, yes, we are going to have a **Masquerade**. But it will not be the same as usual, more from Alice about that on page 10.

Getting in Touch

We've also been setting up more ways for you to communicate with us, and each other. There is a LiveJournal community for the convention, **paragon2**, and another one for the Richard III Project, **richard_3**. Check out livejournal.com if you're interested.

Over at Yahoo Groups you can join **paragon2community**, by going to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/paragon2community/> or by emailing us and asking us to invite you to join. These groups are mostly for you to exchange information,

contact the committee or each other, arrange hotel and transport sharing, come up with ideas, or just chat.

Paperwork Enclosed

You'll find a variety of forms in your envelope. There is a **sponsorship form** for Tim Kirk, who is cycling to the convention to raise money for the St Leonard's Hospice in York. The Hospice looked after one of our members, KIM Campbell, in her last illness. Paragon2 is proud to support Tim in this project, there's more information on page 9.

Another bit of paper is the **Hotel Booking form**. If you're not sure if you have booked yet check the label on your envelope, this will tell you what we have on record.

Or you can contact John Dowd direct. He says:

“We have bookings for about a third of the available rooms from about half the current membership. All room types are still available but a large percentage of the singles have been booked. If you have a special need for a single, or just cannot sleep in a room where there is someone else, you need to book early. At the current rate **singles are likely to become unavailable around New Year.**

Bookings are processed as received. A hotel confirmation is sent to the email address given in your membership details. The deposit is allocated to each person's booking. This means that if a cheque for £40 is sent for two people then each person's booking will show a deposit of £20. Room allocation will take into account all your stated preferences and the date on which your application was processed.

I try to process all applications, for hotel or membership, and payments as soon as I receive them. Cheque applications are usually processed the same day that they are delivered. The cheques however are not paid into the bank immediately. I try to hold onto a cheque no more than three weeks. This can be longer however and in September I was ill for several weeks. This meant that a few cheques received in early August were not put into the bank until early October. I apologise if this caused any inconvenience.

Payments by Paypal are working very well for a significant number of people. It is a great help for me as it avoids the need to visit the bank. There are a few people that seem to fail to complete at the Paypal stage. I have tried to email these people and say that their application is not complete because we have not received payment. In most cases they have successfully completed later or in one case used the post and a cheque.”

Bring A Friend

As of September we are on target for between 700 and 800 members. This will fill the hotel and is comparable with Eastercons of recent years. About half of these people have yet to join. To hearten your committee (stop us dithering about what we can afford) please encourage anyone who has not yet joined to do so. Prices go up after Novacon so there is money to be saved. There is a membership form for you to pass on, enclosed with this PR - especially important if it is for someone you want to share a hotel room with.

Dealers and Artists

If you want to have a table in the dealers' room or space in the artshow, please let us know.

There will be a **Phlosque Award** at Paragon2, if you have any artwork that would qualify we encourage you to bring it along. Phlosque is given for “cute fantasy artwork with significance”, otherwise described as “fluffy cuddly dragons with long eyelashes and a mission to save the ecosystem”. It was first awarded to Dave Mooring in 1994, the most recent winner was Danny Flynn in 2004.

Paragon2 Merchandise

We're experimenting with something new for Paragon2 souvenirs - T-shirts, mousemats, tote bags and the like. We have joined forces with a US company called CaféPress, who produce a wide range of products and print them individually with our designs to your order. Unfortunately, these products are only available through the souvenirs shop on our website. It does mean, though, that you can have a choice of T-shirts from 6-month baby size up to 4XL, and we've also got a special design for people who prefer to have an image between their boobs and not across them. You can even have Paragon2 undies! The service is fast, and they take credit cards. The greatest benefit for all of us is that we have not had to tie up your membership money in merchandise stock.

Richard K. Morgan

by John Richards

Unlike Iain Banks, who started using his middle initial late in his career to distinguish between his science fiction and other work, Richard Morgan always wanted to be Richard K. Morgan but was thwarted in his first British publications by typesetters. As he said in an interview with *Science Fiction Weekly*:

“When my UK publishers were prepping *Altered Carbon*, I asked to be Richard K. Morgan and they said fine, but then there was a decision to publish my novels in the UK under a strong logotype cover, and the extra letter kept getting in the way so we dropped it.”

The author to date of three books and a comic mini-series, Richard studied in Cambridge, lived in London and taught English in Spain and Turkey. He was a lecturer at Strathclyde University and now lives in Glasgow.

His first book *Altered Carbon* (2002) is a hard-boiled detective story set in a far future where bodies are considered as baggage and are known as sleeves. Our hero Takeshi Kovacs is an ex-special forces man turned bodyguard described by his creator as “the UN Protectorate’s chickens coming home to roost” and owing much to the novels of Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy (I was surprised when checking the reading list on his web site to find no mention of Dashiell Hammet whom I would also have identified as an influence) and also to Chinese and, as the name might suggest, Japanese gangster cinema and a large side order of *Bladerunner*.

A murder mystery in a society where murder involves slightly more than the termination of biological processes, the book has been described by Dave Langford as “high-tension SF action hard to put down, though squeamish readers may shut their eyes rather frequently”.

Asked in an interview on *scifidimensions.com* about the level of violence Morgan replied:

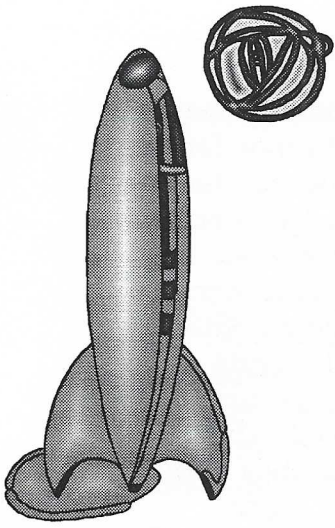
“I don’t think you can “go too far” with violence. You either deal with it or you don’t. And if you are going to deal with it, you can’t pull your punches. What I have an abiding hatred for is “violence-lite” - the kind of thing you get in airport lounge thrillers and see in TV shows like *The A-Team*, where the air is filled with a million rounds of automatic fire and no-one gets hurt, where crisp, manly punches can be traded with no blood and no apparent damage, and where the bad guys climb out of crushed and machine-gunned vehicles shaking their heads dazedly and saying “damn, if it hadn’t been for you meddling kids...”.

I think it’s far more dangerous and dishonest to peddle that kind of tripe than it is to make someone sit through *Reservoir Dogs* or *Gangs of New York*. Violence is emotionally exciting and sickening at one and the same time, and it has appalling consequences for all concerned. If you’re going to write about it at all, then all those aspects have to come into the writing. That’s what I try to do.”

Altered Carbon won the 2003 Philip K. Dick award, announced in April 2004. “I was at Eastercon in the U.K. and slightly hung-over at the time - suddenly people were coming up to me in corridors and congratulating me. Works way better than aspirin. So as soon as I could bear to, I broke out the Jack Daniels and celebrated in the traditional way. For which I was very sorry the following day.” The film rights for *Altered Carbon* have been sold to Joel Silver.

Broken Angels (2003) continued the adventures of Kovacs. This time, detective

cont. page 6



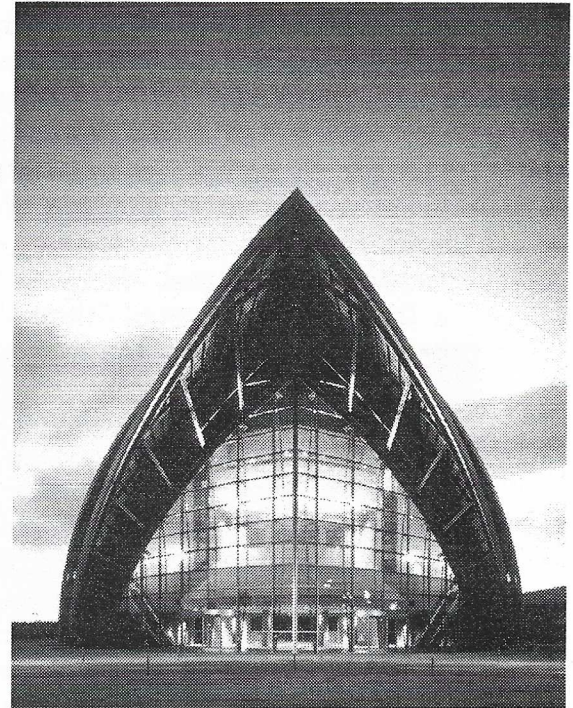
INTERACTION

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work is replaced by military effort in a story of a fabulous prize discovered by a small unit in a war zone. Here we find echoes of Clint Eastwood films from *Kelly's Heroes* to *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* in a story of betrayal, greed and politics. Once again Morgan presents the reader with a complex plot backed by strong characters and tight prose that does not disgrace its predecessors.

Market Forces (2004) is a change of pace in that it is set in a much nearer future. Like a *Mad Max* story written by one who is more familiar with the Hangar Gyration system than the road to Alice Springs it is a tale of corporate warfare taken to the highways. Morgan credits the original idea for the story to a friend who sneered "they think they live in a jungle do they?" at a couple of bankers.

From there *Market Forces* became a short story and a screenplay before emerging in its finished form (although Morgan mentions a possible film deal is in the making). As well as *Mad Max* the influence of *Rollerball* is acknowledged and felt in this story of corporations circling each other in a vicious game played out by low level executives and hapless outsiders. Indeed the climax of the story is built on the concept of winning not by sticking to the rules but by changing the views of the spectators as to which rules should be stuck to.

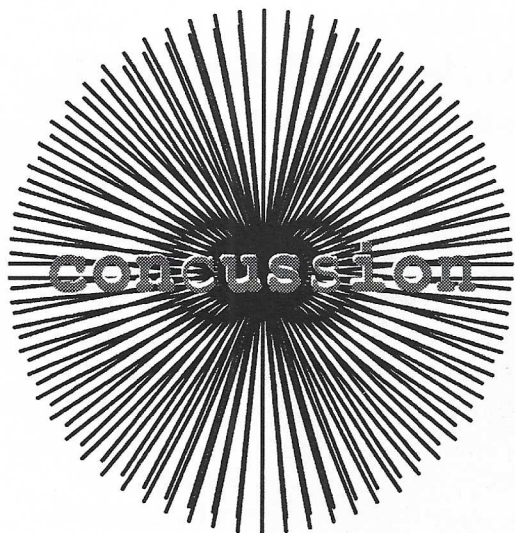
Richard K. Morgan is also the author of the 6 part *Black Widow* series coming out from Marvel at the time of writing. Chris Arrant from *newsarama.com* asked him what interested him about the character: "Well, first and foremost the fact that she's a woman. Gender issues fascinate me, and crop up a lot in my writing - one of the reasons Jenny Lee got in touch with me in the first place was that she felt the female characters in *Altered Carbon* weren't defined by their sex or sexuality - they were just people, good, bad and indifferent, getting on with their lives just like the male characters - here you have this immensely tough and resourceful

woman, and she always ends up being a pawn. It's practically a metaphor for sexual oppression. What you see happen over and over again in the stories is that she gets used by all the male figures around her, whether it be her old KGB masters, her more recent SHIELD masters or just the men she ends up sleeping with. I mean, they're never there for her when she needs them, but she still does whatever they want. For me, this was a paradox - why should a woman this tough, talented and trained allow this to happen? More importantly, what could we do to redress the balance? What about some payback? From there on in, I was hooked."

Asked by *Locus* as to his future plans Richard has said: "I'm writing "Kovacs #3", *Woken Furies*, now, and what's driving it is a fascination with Kovacs himself. He's got to make some decisions about the way he sees the world. If *Altered Carbon* has got some analogies with *The Big Sleep*, and *Broken Angels* had some inspiration from *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, then I guess for the third one the root inspiration is *North by Northwest* and *The Thirty-nine Steps*.

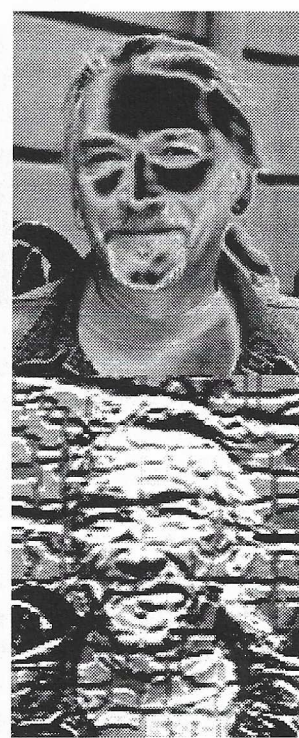
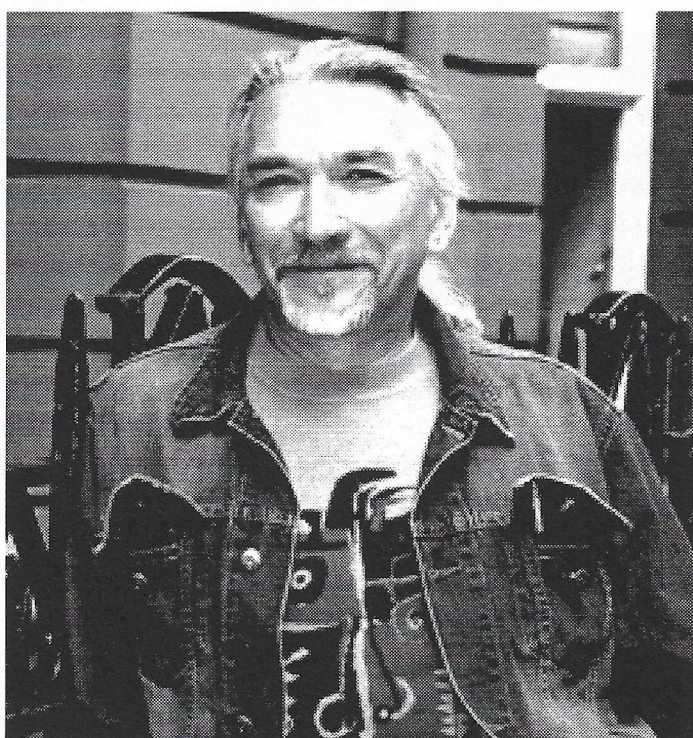
It's more of a chase thriller, with a lot of to-ing and fro-ing all over Harlan's World in search of things. It's back to the *noir* staples, in the sense that there are bad guys out to get him, all sorts of weird interests where he can't work out what's going on, and a sort of *femme fatale* figure, but there's more exotic travel. The Martians left behind orbitals circling Harlan's World, which basically means you can't go up in the air, so getting places takes a long time - there's an old-fashioned feel to it. It's more extensive in range, and I think it's also more intensely personal.

This is Kovacs' novel more than the other two were. Most of the book is about how he comes down from his fixation with vengeance, always having blood on his hands, to a slightly more socially constructive point of view. So I don't think it will be quite as grim as *Broken Angels*."



Eastercon 2006

14th-17th April 2006, Glasgow



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M. John Harrison

Light Viriconium Climbers The Centauri Device

Further Guests of Honour to be announced – see website for this and other updates:

www.eastercon2006.org

Attending Membership £30 Supporting Membership £15

For further details, membership forms and general enquiries see our web site or write to:

Concussion 103 Rustat Road Cambridge CB1 3QG

Ben Jeapes

by Sabine Furlong

Why is he a genius? Well, let me put it this way, when I asked him in preparation for this piece how old he was, this is what he said: "If I make it to 101 and 7 months, I will see the 1000th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings." Now I like history, but even I could not tell you which month the battle was until I looked it up. So I leave you to work it out for yourselves as well.

Ben got interested in SF early in his childhood, reading Wells and Verne and watching *Dr Who*, *Trek* and the various Gerry Anderson shows on offer. He once converted the family cellar into a TARDIS console room (not sure he wanted me to mention this, but he shouldn't have told the interviewer). You can probably call him a fan from the ripe old age of 10, when he learnt that his favourite pastime was in fact called "science fiction." His growing interest without fail led him to his first convention, namely Reconnaissance in Cardiff, 1991. Since then Ben has been a regular visitor at numerous conventions and was a guest at ConteXXt, the 2002 Unicon in Cheltenham.

From writing and telling stories at the age of 7 grew the desire to sell his stories to a wider audience. By the time he was 18, he started writing in earnest and managed his first sale at 25. I asked him why he started to write to begin with and he said: "Well, you know the old saying that if you want a job done properly you do it yourself?". And if you ask me, I think he's doing a pretty good job at it too!

But not only was Ben going into writing, he was also dipping his fingers in the editor's pie. Many of you will fondly remember Big Engine – and its liquid launch parties! Ben ran his publishing company from October 2000 until May 2003, publishing works such as *The Leaky Establishment*, by your favourite David Langford. Unfortunately, Big En-

gine is no more, but it was a good try! Another good try was the ill fated *SF3* magazine, which was another victim of the Big Engine demise. It had a short but sweet life.

Nonetheless, Ben was not being dragged under by these events, concentrating instead on his writing career. It had really taken off with his first novel *His Majesty's Starship*, published by Scholastic Press in 1998. I read the novel in a couple of days and loved it. It is what I call a real good yarn. Simply a good SF story to sit and enjoy, comparable to the works of Lois McMaster Bujold. His second work, *The Winged Chariot*, published in 2000, led him into the realms of alternative history and time travel. The story juggled several timelines to a logical yet surprising ending, being fast and witty. Yet what I call a good story some publishers can't handle and Ben was put on the shelves in the young adult section. With *The Xenocide Mission*, in 2002, a sort of follow up to his first novel, at least my local bookstore has put Ben back into mainstream SF.

But then, I don't think Ben minds writing for the younger crowd. Writing under the heroic sounding pseudonym "Sebastian Rook", Ben's first instalment of the *Vampire Plagues* trilogy is now out from Scholastic, with the second instalment planned for December. (May I add that last I checked, only 3 were left on Amazon!) Other forthcoming projects include the next "real" Ben Jeapes novel, back into space after his diversion into 17th century England; *Unseen Forces*, the first in hopefully a bestselling series of SFish adventures for younger readers of 10-12, with input by David Fickling and possibly others, and *Midnight Library*, a Working Partners project of three short horror stories in one volume. I think this is the beginning of a beautiful career. You see why I call him multi-tasking!

What's a ... Convention Charity?

by Fran Dowd and Tim Kirk

Some conventions have charities which they support, either with cash donations if the convention has a surplus, or with publicity and collections among members and anyone else they can get at. Novacon (the annual science fiction convention of the Birmingham SF Group), for instance, has done sterling work over the last 15 years for the Royal National Institute's Talking Books for the Blind project.

Along with this PR you'll find a sponsorship form for Tim Kirk, who is cycling from York to Paragon2. The ride is in aid of St Leonard's Hospice in York, where both KIM Campbell (known to many in fandom) and Tim's mum, Gill Kirk (known to very few in fandom) died within a year of each other.

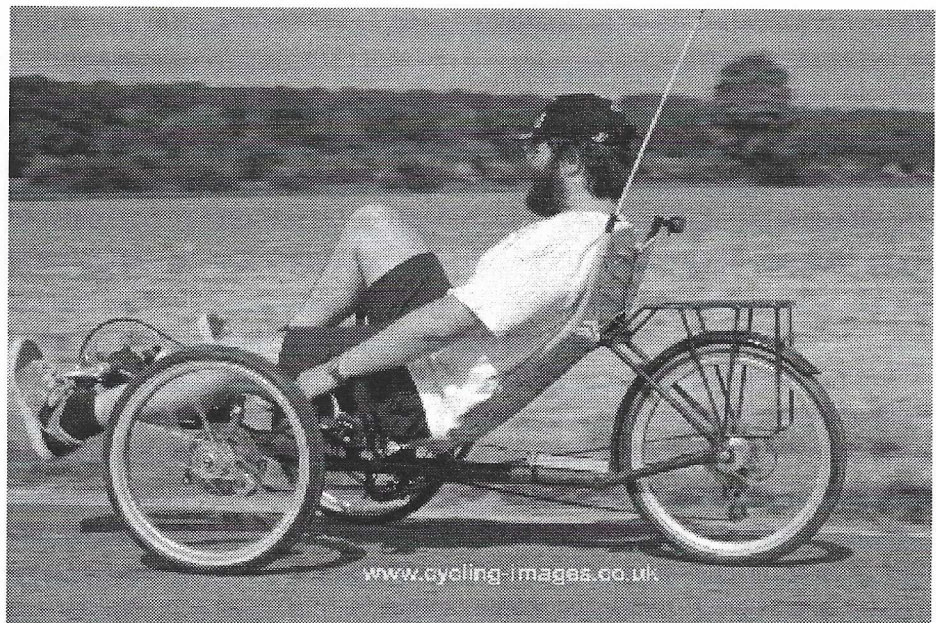
Tim says: "The distance is between 150-175 miles - not sure of the exact distance and I'm still finalising the route - I've been saying 170 miles/ 250 km as that looks about right... (Most route planning software gets confused by the parameters for cycle rides, like no motorways for a start!).

The plan is to attempt the entire distance on 22nd March 2005 - the Tuesday before Easter(con) - this gives me a spare day on Wednesday

if anything goes wrong to complete and lets me help with con setup as I do a fair amount on the Thursday (assuming legs have recovered...). My previous longest continuous ride is about 120

miles, but I've done over 1000 miles in 2 weeks before so as long as I get some miles in have no worries about completing - but a strong headwind or mechanical issues could force me into the second day. Plan to leave York about 5 am and simply ride until I get there :) [As a side note I'd planned the ride and worked out which day before I checked the date, which actually would have been my Mum's birthday, so I suppose there is a bit of kismet involved what with an unusually early Easter next year...].

The machine I'm riding is shown below (with a somewhat younger me on it). It has also been involved in a prize winning masquerade entry (I can't remember the exact title, but it was the cybernetic Queen Victoria's bottom section ...*) and has been to conventions in Liverpool, Manchester and Hinckley."



(*The entry was "Regents Park" by SMS Team - SMS, Eira, David Angus, Tim Kirk and Sparks appearing - and won Best Workmanship at the original Paragon in 2001 - Ed.)

Programme Progress

Ideas to Think About by John Richards

A long time ago things were more simple. Vampires were damned souls, and thus incapable of love. Richard the Third was a bad king who killed the Princes in the Tower. The Galactic Patrol were the heroes of civilization. Han Solo shot first and, taken on the whole, empires tended to be evil.

In these days the idea of accepting concepts of good and evil on trust seems a little less popular. The belief that the powers that be must surely know more than we do when they make decisions that seem to fly in the face of all the evidence is harder to sustain.

In the programme at Paragon2 we intend to examine some of the certainties of the past in the light of the sensibilities of the present, and occasionally examine the sensibilities of the present in the light of certainties of the past. *(There are some "certainties" about heroes in PR2, and some about villains on page 16 of this PR - Ed.)* We think that an item that does not promote arguments in the bar cannot be considered wholly successful, so we want to tackle questions like:

Should we stop being so worried by 1984 and start being a tad more concerned by the onset of a *Brave New World*?

Should we be applauding the activities of an elite chosen by a secret cabal who are prepared to overthrow governments by military means in the name of civilization, who act as judge, jury and executioners without oversight and who monitor the communications and even the thoughts of suspects with no respect for their privacy?

Does *Star Wars* only make sense if you assume that Darth Vader is a double agent working against a conspiracy by The Emperor and Yoda?

What makes us so sure that the Rebel Alliance are the good guys?

When should an artist stand back from his work and say that's finished?

When Michael Moorcock invented the Eternal Champion did he mean to include Dido Twite?

When did *Star Trek* cease to be a force for teaching ideals of infinite diversity and become a forum for reflecting the self satisfied orthodoxy of its audience back on itself?

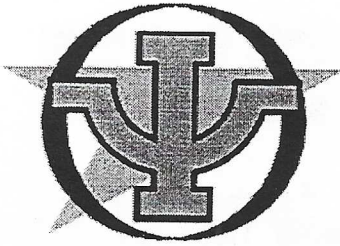
Our guests will be talking about politics, urban legends and merchant banking with extreme prejudice. We will be stealing items about Space Law and anything else that comes to our attention that isn't tied down too tightly.

In addition to this we will be playing games, hosting a slew of events, and trying out some new things. *(More about these in Things to Do in the Long Winter Months, page 14 - Ed.)* We will be running a convention wide exercise in schizophrenia and duplicity. All in all we will be trying to have a good time and endeavouring to ensure that you do too.

To Masquerade or not to Masquerade, that is the question ... by Alice Lawson

Or at least it is a question that I have been pondering for a while now. I know at Concourse (Eastercon 2004) it was decided to cancel as there were too few

cont. page 12

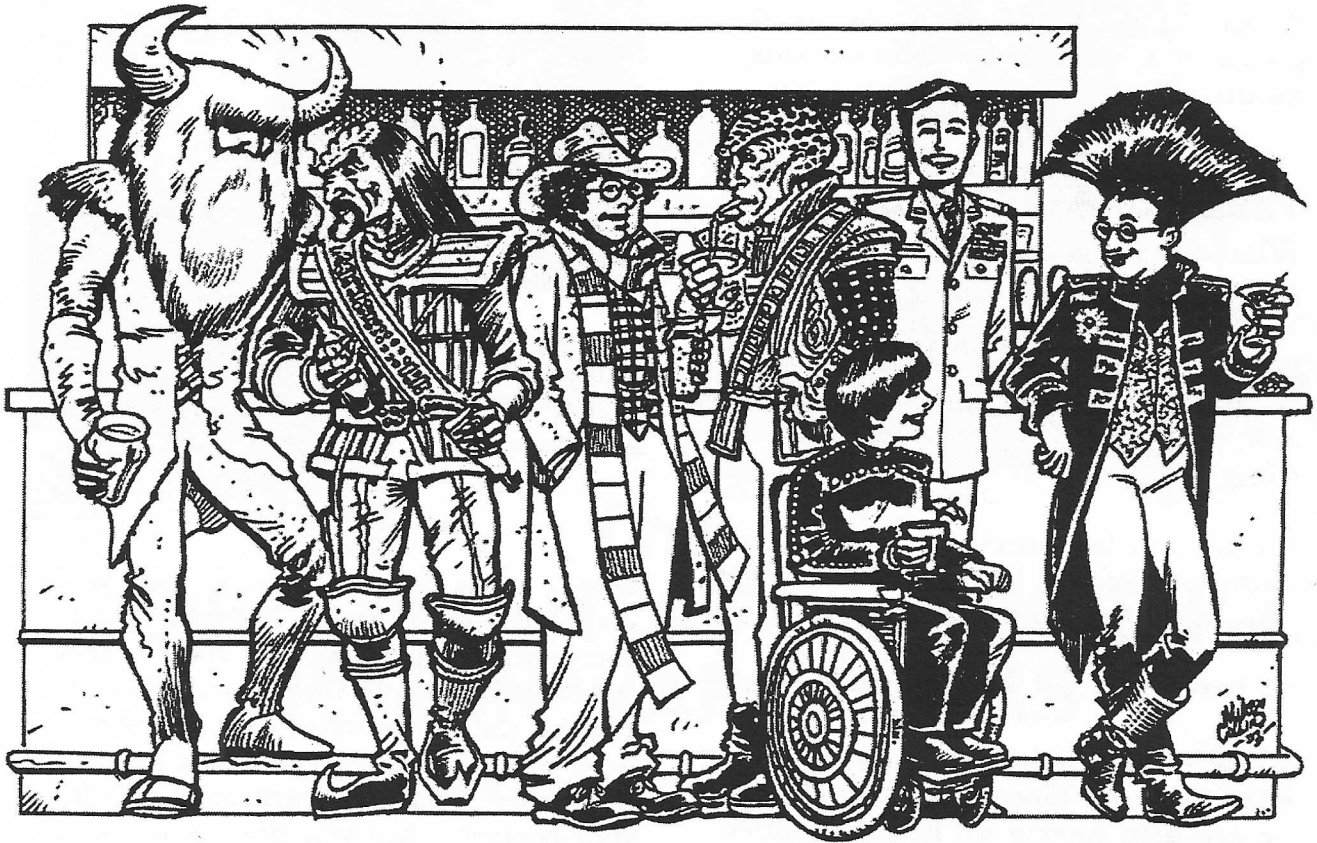


REDEMPTION '05

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Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, Leics, UK

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A convention run
by fans for fans
(all profits to charity)

For more information about the convention, write with SAE to Lesley McIntee, 26 Kings Meadow View, Wetherby LS22 7FX, UK

This will be a fannish event concentrating on activities that let people join in rather than just sit in an audience and listen. Events will include workshops, panels, debates, games, masquerade, drinking and so on.

redemptioninfo@smof.com www.smof.com/redemption

However this is simply Elizabethan propaganda to validate the Tudor monarchs.

There is however a third way to view this epic tale. Described by *York Notes Advanced* as "sensational", Paragon2 is proud to present *Richard III* as it was meant to be performed - with jokes.

Things to Do in the Long Winter Months

by *Alice Lawson and James Bacon*

It's rather simple really, if you want to sit and listen to people talking all weekend, then you don't need to do anything.

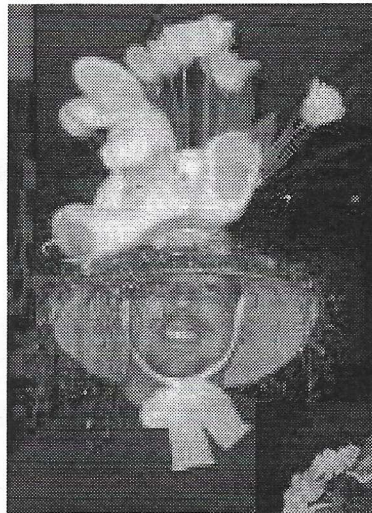
If you want to participate and have a bit more fun, then it helps us if you know what you need to bring along.

So here goes, get the rucksacks ready.

Make and Find Costumes

As well as the Masquerade (*see above*), we are also having an Easter Bonnet Parade.

This will just be parading around in your bonnet and will not need advance notice of entry. Bonnets can be as simple or OTT as you like.



Here are some winners of previous Parades to inspire you.

So get your old hats and Easter tat out and have fun.



We'll also be having a Hall Costume competition. Members will have tokens to award to people they see in costume around the convention, and the winners will be rewarded at the Closing Ceremony. So if you want to show off your costume, but you don't want to enter the Masquerade (or you'd like to display your Masquerade entry to a wider audience), this is for you. The rules are simple - no fire or water, unsheathed edged weapons, food products, or projectiles.

There will also be the Alter Ego Masked Ball, this is an opportunity to dress up as your alter ego. You should know who or what this is, at this stage, if you don't check out page 23 and get in touch with us. You can change your alter ego, if you have a Banana Man costume to hand and are dying to wear it, all you have to do is let us know.

Another big evening event will be a James Bond universe Casino Night. So obviously tuxedos and nice frocks are

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... to beat the Daleks?

... to send an army
thundering through the
Gap of Rohan?

... to defend the skies
of Victorian England?

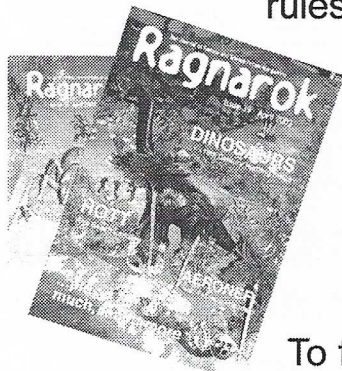
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entries. Lo and behold, there was an outcry across the nation, or at least the convention, and it was reinstated. Yes it was fun in the end and yes people enjoyed it. However, it is stressful worrying that you are going to have a prime time evening event with only six costumes. When the Masquerade is in a prime Saturday or Sunday evening slot and then you have to cancel, what do you do? In the last few years it has been touch and go as to the number of entries. Although we have always managed, the entries are getting fewer and fewer.

So this year I have decided to give it another go, but... it will not be in the main hall as the usual big evening event. For those of you that know the hotel, it has a lovely rotunda space that has normally been used for lounging, this year however there will be programming in there during the day and early evening. We are putting in a sort of dance floor area to enable us to do this. It will not have tech at all apart from perhaps some way to play music. It has lots of natural light and the acoustics are superb.

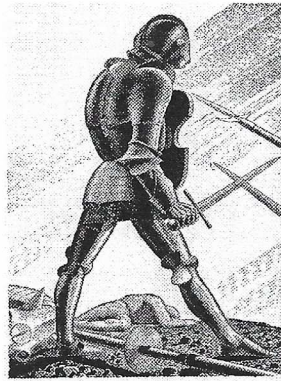
I propose to hold the Masquerade in there, probably on Sunday around 5 or 6 pm.

It means that there will be no facility for blackouts and such. So bear that in mind when you are thinking of your costume. It will be more like the early Masquerades before all this tech stuff. Personally I thought the Concourse Masquerade was a lot of fun in the end because people were relaxed and not worried about sound or light cues. At the end of the day that is why we do it, fun.

If you are planning to enter please let me know in advance. It stops me panicking and the programme people having to have an alternative item in hand just in case.

You can contact me at fab@zoom.co.uk. (Please put Masquerade as the subject.)

Richard III Project by David Wake



Which Richard?

The Richard III Project is being co-ordinated by Alice Lawson and David Wake. David is currently working on the basic script, and will direct. Jasper Fforde cannot now commit to playing Richard, but we are working with him on other ideas for the convention.

There are various ways to watch what's going on with the Project, including a Live Journal community at livejournal.com/community/richard_3 and pages on the regular convention website. If you want to get involved (acting, walk-on, costume, script cutting, etc), please contact David by email at: davidwake@blueyonder.co.uk (Ed.)

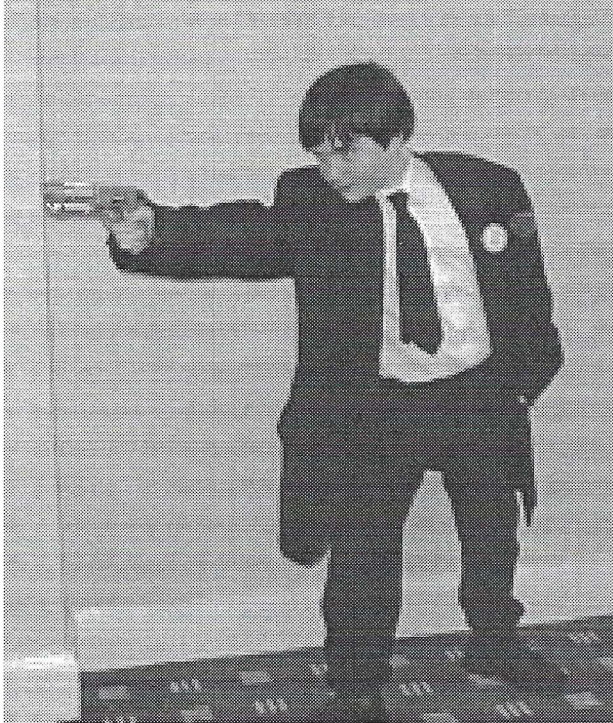
Jasper Fforde's book *The Eyre Affair* outlines an audience participation version of William Shakespeare's *Richard III* - for the audience, to the audience and by the audience.

Shakespeare wrote three types of plays: histories, tragedies and comedies. *Richard III* is often mistakenly confused between two of these categories. On the surface it is a history play coming between *Henry VI Parts 1-3* and *Henry VII*.

Scratching deeper, we can see it as a tragedy as Richard himself falls from being "determined to be a villain" to someone plagued by "timorous dreams". Think of Darth Vader becoming Anakin Skywalker only more so.

cont. page 14

the order of the day, but any costume from any Bond book or movie would be good, from a USSR uniform to a Drax jumpsuit, all is good.



And you'll need a toga for the Circus Maximus (see page 17). And an audience participation costume for *Richard III* - York or Lancaster?

Make and Find Kit

Here is a quick list of things you might fancy bringing along to make some of our programme items go with a swing. Of course we will have a stash of these things for those of you who forget or just don't have 'em, but if you have any of these things, throw 'em in the boot of the car:

- Light sabres, you know, the toy ones
- Water pistols and water balloons
- Any *Star Wars*, *Spiderman* or *Harry Potter* Lego
- Kites
- Blow Up Weapons
- Space Hoppers

- anything with wheels and pedals, from pedal cars to trikes
- Hula hoops

For those of you of a younger age, we would advise that we have a very messy programme item planned, that will involve the destruction of clothes, so an old set of clothes would be good. Skateboard pads would be useful, and especially a Blow Up Weapon.

Also there are a number of hobbies and interests that some of you may have that may prove useful, as we are planning something around them, so here is a list of subjects that we would be interested in talking to people about:

- Roman weaponry, siege weapons, riot control
- *Nightmare Before Christmas*
- *Doc Savage*

Please contact James Bacon at: piglet@indigo.ie

(I have to stress that any events involving items that look like WEAPONRY will be strictly monitored by Ops and their word is LAW. Anything involving WATER or ANYTHING THAT GOES BANG will only be used under guidance and will probably be OUTSIDE. - Ed.)

And finally ... for adults only

James would like to know about any dodgy porno SF out there that he may have missed. The discovery of Ed Wood's lost last movie *Necromania* and its issue on DVD has gladdened his little heart.

If you would like to volunteer to be involved in programme items, or have an idea for an item, please let us know at: programme@paragon2.org.uk

What's a ... Villain?

Alfred Hitchcock: "In the old days villains had moustaches and kicked the dog. Audiences are smarter today. They don't want their villain to be thrown at them with green limelight on his face. They want an ordinary human being with failings."

Augustine: "Accordingly, when the Catholic Church declares that God is the author of all natures and substances, those who understand this understand that at the same time that God is not the author of evil. For how can he who is the cause of the being of all things be at the same time the cause of their not being - that is, of their falling off from essence and tending to non-existence? For this is what reason plainly declares to be the definition of evil."

John Locke: "An excellent man, like precious metal, is in every way invariable. A villain, like the beams of a balance, is always varying, upwards and downwards."

Timothy Mason: "The identity of the serial killer places him at the centre of a number of fundamental American concerns - the tensions between the federal government and the states, and the tensions between an enquiring and liberal attitude to social phenomena and a desire for peace and security being foremost among them. But perhaps the deepest function of the serial killer is to bring crime out into the suburbs and the small towns. The white middle classes have left the inner cities in order to flee the disorder and crime that they felt to characterize them. And out there in suburbs and on the campuses where they send their children, they find Ted Bundy."

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley: "The same energy of character which renders a man a daring villain would have rendered him useful in society, had that society been well organized."

Colette: "As for an authentic villain, the real thing, the absolute, the artist, one rarely meets him even once in a lifetime. The ordinary bad hat is always in part a decent fellow."

Buddha: "It is a man's own mind, not his enemy or foe, that lures him to evil ways."

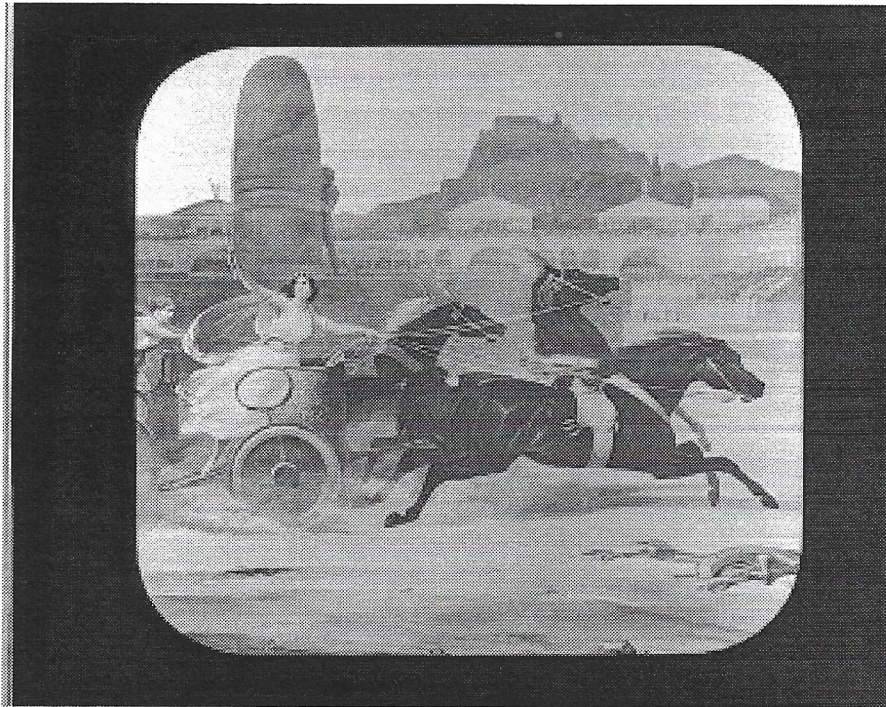
Aaron McGruder [about the then-newly released *Reagan Letters*, which had many re-examining the 40th President's perceived intelligence]: "Let's say, y'know, ten years from now we discover all these really intelligent things that Dubya has written. Does it somehow make it better if he was actually a genius and masterminded the dumb thing in order to manipulate people? Does that make you go back and go "Oh, that's better. He was an evil genius instead of an evil idiot.?"

Paul Berman: "In the skyline now, there is an empty space where the Twin Towers used to be. I gaze out my study window, where I am used to seeing the Towers, and I can hardly believe what I see. I see nothing. Smoke and sky. It is the symbol of absolute evil."

Free Dictionary: "More than the heroes, the villains are the crucial elements upon which plots turn. Yet what makes the villain really indispensable in many works of fiction, including virtually all modern action movies, is that he provides an impeccable excuse for sadistic pleasure. The standard action story invariably begins by demonizing the villain - i.e., showing that he is so evil that he ceases to be a human being and becomes a monster; so that making him suffer is only necessary justice and most commendable. From then on, the reader or viewer can enjoy the sadistic pleasure of watching someone being beaten, burned, chopped, impaled, blown to bits, etc. etc.; and can identify himself with the hero who is doing all that - all with a clean conscience."

Beyond Cyberdronicus - Circus Maximus

by James Bacon and SMS



Our own mad Caesar, SMS, has declared, for the year MMV, a festival of gladiators, slave girls and boys, live trumpet music and flooding the Rotunda Atrium with water and releasing crocodiles into it...

As in the reign of Nero, diplomatic negotiations between the Emperor, Editors and Magisters have limited some of the wilder Imperial flights of fancy. There will be no crocodiles (at least, no live ones) or floods, no sea battles or massacres of thousands (just hundreds). There will be a number of robot competitions taking place in the Atrium, which can be viewed from many levels, just like the Coliseum:

Chariot Race where an obstacle course of sorts will need to be negotiated. Speed and control is of essence here.

Attack the Legionaries' Fort where an attack must be made on a fort of Roman construction.

Kill The Christian as dolls are staked to the floor of the arena and grue-

somely attacked, and finally of course we will be having as always the:

Fight To The Death competition where the greatest Gladiatorial Robot will win.

Caesar has remained adamant that the Slave Auction remains in the programme: "We want to run a Slave Auction for slave girls (and boys) before Cyberdronicus because *Sprokkette Idol* was such a success that we've now had *Sprokkette Inquisition* and *Sprokkette Air Hostess Interviews*. We think it's prurient and utterly beneath us ... but we know what our audience likes and we'd hate to disappoint them."

For the Cyberdronicus competition itself, the gladiatorial theme is one that we hope will offer many inventive entries.

In this PR we look at how to construct A Robot for Rome. There will be a whole room full of junk to play with, so bring your power tools, but a head start is to prepare some stuff now. Think of the glory.

cont. page 18

If you are not interested in building a robot, there are other things you can do to prepare. Caesar has decreed that you must come to the Circus in costume – togas, barbarian goth, Cleopatra on a visit. Get buff for the Auction. Dress a doll to be massacred. Pick a faction to join: Blue, Green, Red or White. Faction ribbons will be available from passing slaves. Betting is to be encouraged. A suitable system of corruption will be organised.

Learn your lines:

“Ave, Caesar, morituri te salutant!”

Hail, Caesar, we who are about to die salute you.

“Mitte!” Send him back!

“Hoc habet!” He’s had it!

“Missio” (wave a handkerchief) An honorable reprieve

“Pellice verso” Death

“Quam molesta!” What a nuisance!

“I conjure you up, holy beings and holy names, join in aiding this spell, and bind, enchant, thwart, strike, overturn, conspire against, destroy, kill, break xxxx, the charioteer, and all his horses tomorrow in the circus at Rome. May he not leave the barriers well; may he not be quick in contest; may he not outstrip anyone; may he not make the turns well; may he not win any prizes...”

The following details are from scrolls believed to be written by the armourer Gimpus Maximus in the service of Proconsuls Jamesicus and Stefix, towards the end of the reign of the Emperor Titus Asa Drummicus:

How to build a Robot

It depends on what you want the robot to do and what your resources are (what’s lying around, like).

So far we (Elvis, James and Stef) have found that car boot sales, charity shops and the likes of buy and sell are the

best source of cheap, second hand remote control vehicles, which is a good place to start.

Remote controlled vehicles offer a chassis. Once you whip off the body work, from there you can build on. Meccano, Lego, or just wood and metalwork can change this chassis into a serious fighting machine. Spears or swords can be fashioned, as can shields for protection from plastic. We did something similar with Gimp 2 below.

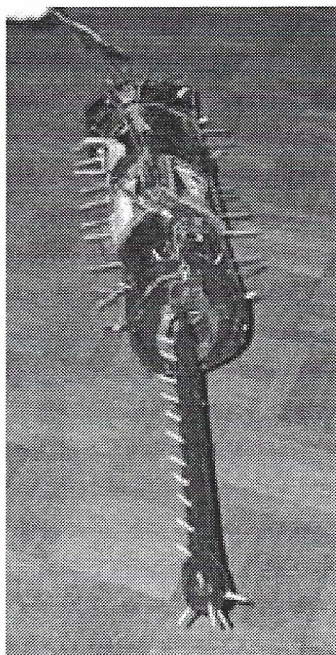


Starting with a simple remote control 4x4, we removed the body, then we attached Meccano, and built a large shield for the front. On the rear we attached rods of metal, which have a spearing effect. To finish this one we went a bit further, and attached some Meccano to the chassis; to this we attached a flail, again using Meccano.

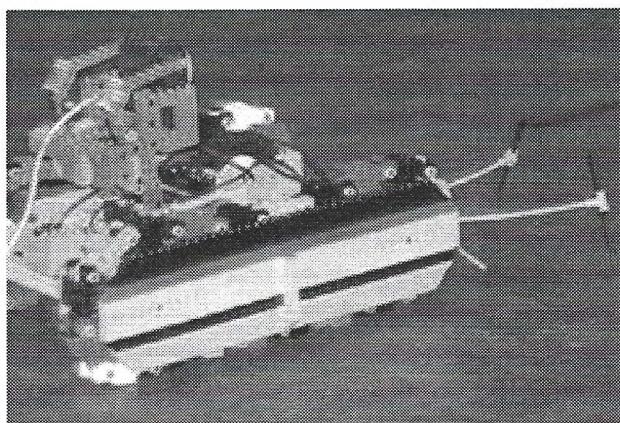
This didn’t take long, nor cost much, at all. We tried this robot out at Cyberdrome ’01 in the UK, and it fared well. The plough and rods were very effective, the rotor, well it looked good. The one disadvantage of this method was that the other contestants also had similar remote vehicles, which seriously interfered with our controls, but this just added to the mayhem! Be aware of interfering frequencies!!!!

Opposite we have another robot, built by Elvis. This robot is of the turnaround variety. It will only go in one direction, and when it gets across the arena, it

has to be faced the other way. The basis for this robot is a very old roller skate. Onto this was attached an old rechargeable screwdriver to turn the spiked rod, and a motor was also attached. The motive power was transferred using a strong elastic band, to a groove cut into the skate wheel.



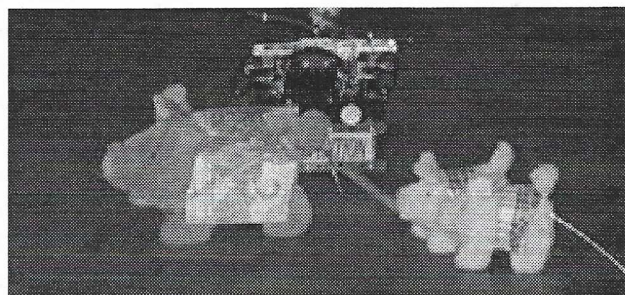
Over all these works a cardboard tube was attached. A couple of hours was then spent adding bits, black tape, sharp things, but this robot was built over a weekend, in a chaos workshop. Although there is less control, the robot is robust, and can do damage, and we do allow people to turn their own robot.



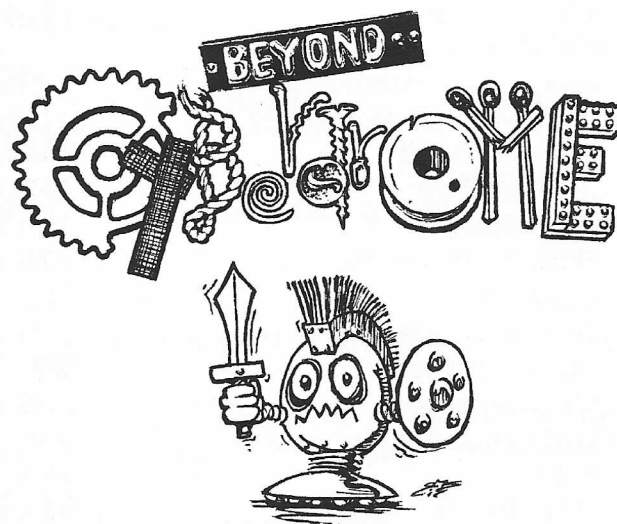
Above we have a wire controlled robot, Sir Cam-a-bot. This was built by Bazooka. He used Lego Technics to build this, and controlled the robot with a wire controller. The wire controller means no hassle with interference, but you need a lot of wire, and then of course one 'snip' and control is gone. He built this over a number of nights, coming up with this unique design.

Finally we have a Fire and Forget. This is a robot which is either self aware, as is the case with a K-nex robot built again by Bazooka which had sensors which alert the robot and changes direction when they are set off, or a robot which may just go round and round, because it's stuck like that, we don't mind. No control input once they are off, but hopefully luck will be smiling, and you never know.

Remember, these are just ideas, you may have a much better one, but sometimes the simplest and cheapest robot wins, sometimes not.



It's about having a laugh and as you can see from the robot above some people take it too seriously.



Caesar: SMS
Classical Advisor to Caesar: Tony Keen

Paragon2 Membership List as of October 2004

(A = Attending, S = Supporting (receives publications etc. but is not entitled to attend the convention), J = Junior, C = Child, I = Infant, D = Deceased)

½r	65 A	Marianne Cain	330 C
A ³	171 A	Steve Cain	329 A
Michael Abbott	46 A	Cal	131 A
Dawn Abigail	144 A	Simon Callan	241 A
Iain Alexander	235 A	K.I.M. Campbell	50 D
Paul Allwood	248 A	Diane Capewell	172 A
Brian Ameringen	81 A	Stuart Capewell	173 A
Meriol Ameringen	82 I	Cardinal Cox	164 A
Chris Amies	204 A	Cat Coast	94 A
Diane Anderson	55 A	Arthur Chappell	224 A
John Anderson	56 A	Chris	219 A
Andrew Hogg	317 A	Chris	52 A
ANNEB	325 A	Chris Crawshaw	359 A
Andrew Armstrong	92 A	Chris Hill	356 A
Helen Armstrong	93 A	Claire Weaver	346 A
Katherine Atkin-Wright	296 A	Martin Clarke	249 A
Toby Atkin-Wright	295 A	Ethan Coates	189 I
AuntieChrist	134 A	Joel Coates	188 I
Margaret Austin	169 A	Steve Cockayne	220 A
Barbara Ballantyne	282 A	Paul F Cockburn	165 A
Tony Ballantyne	283 A	Peter Cohen	142 A
Barbara-Jane	159 A	Colette	30 A
Bazooka!	304 A	Baby Cooper	66 I
Frances Beardsley	344 A	David T. Cooper	62 A
Dave Bell	316 S	Jane Cooper	63 A
Meike Benzler	136 A	Matthew Cooper	64 C
Michael Bernardi	24 A	Steve Cooper	12 A
Tony Berry	191 A	William Cooper	70 J
Black Knight	350 A	Richard Crawshaw	358 A
Blind Pew	73 A	Tony Cullen	223 A
Jaap Boekestein	38 A	John Dallman	128 A
Hans-Ulrich Boettcher	112 A	Julia Daly	3 A
Sandra Bond	111 A	Dave H	294 A
Jill Bradley	117 A	Martyn Dawe	14 A
Phil Bradley	116 A	Jim de Liscard	135 A
Simon Bradshaw	175 A	Giulia DeCesare	137 A
John Bray	182 A	Dee Parker	365 A
Claire Brialey	39 A	Ben Dessau	257 A
Matt Brooker	286 A	Vincent Docherty	97 A
Gillian Bryson	305 A	Chris Donaldson	34 A
E.D. Buckley	208 A	Doom	301 J
Bug	174 A	Paul Dormer	58 A
Bill Burns	36 A	DougS	21 A
Mary Burns	37 A	Fran Dowd	1 A
Roger Burton West	324 A	John Dowd	25 A
Jonathan Cain	331 I	Tara Dowling-Hussey	183 A

Dr Bob	166 A	Ian Snell	314 A
Dr Hill	343 A	Marcia Kelly Illingworth	120 A
Dr Mig	339 A	Tim Illingworth	119 A
Dr Tones	104 A	Jackie Duckhawk	327 S
David Drysdale	72 A	Nicholas Jackson	268 A
Roger Earnshaw	22 A	James	2 S
Martin Easterbrook	170 A	Rhodri James	44 A
Eddie Cochrane	148 A	Wilf James	41 A
Edward James	364 A	Janet	150 A
Sue Edwards	132 A	John Jarrold	310 A
El Berry de Straw	361 A	Jen	341 A
Elaine	187 A	Jenny	349 A
Herman Ellingsen	74 A	Jenny	51 A
Elvis	347 A	Jess	147 A
Udo Emmerich	45 A	Jeremy Johnson	267 A
Iain Emsley	213 A	Sue Jones	79 A
Mike Figg	149 A	Dick Jude	212 A
Colin Fine	291 A	KAT W	203 A
Birgit Fischer	290 A	Kate	103 A
Brian Flatt	68 A	Peter Kievits	99 A
Flick	309 A	Steve Kilbane	202 A
Lynn Fotheringham	287 A	Jane Killick	360 A
Susan Francis	194 A	Tim Kirk	49 A
Anders Frihagen	91 A	Kris	210 A
Gwen Funnell	20 A	Krysia	258 A
Karen Furlong	326 C	La Femme Chocolat	141 A
Nigel Furlong	4 A	Dave Lally	6 A
Sabine Furlong	5 A	Dave Langford	167 A
Gav	130 A	Alice Lawson	7 A
Janice Gelb	336 A	Steve Lawson	8 A
Geneva Melzack	319 A	Erhard Leder	78 A
Helen Glassborow	312 A	Ruth Leibig	122 A
Martin Glassborow	311 A	Oscar Logger	160 A
Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf	43 A	Lor	152 S
Niall Gordon	118 A	Lostcarpark	151 S
Wendy Graham	263 A	M.J. Simpson	253 A
Roy Gray	260 S	Peter Mabey	153 A
Steve Grover	199 A	Duncan MacGregor	288 A
Urban Gunnarsson	80 A	Bobby MacLaughlin	234 S
Shobah Guzadhur	243 A	Mali	85 A
Dave Hardy	206 A	Keith Marsland	197 A
Colin Harris	140 A	Martin	161 A
Susie Haynes	280 A	Sue Mason	302 A
Julian Headlong	42 A	Alistair Maynard	229 A
Helen Hall	352 A	Mike McKeown	306 A
Zandy Hemsley	338 A	Rory McLean	157 A
Heretic	299 A	Alex McLintock	272 A
Rick Hewett	158 A	Pat McMurray	29 A
Hex	297 A	Meggie Moo	313 I
Hexen	298 A	Farah Mendlesohn	363 A
David Hicks	95 A	Chloe Messenger	226 J
Judi Hodgkin	337 A	Sara Messenger	227 A
Warren Hudson	322 A	Ian Millsted	334 A
Sally Hurst	332 A	Minnow	328 A
Malcolm Hutchison	259 A	Sue Mitchell	275 A

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Mogwai	340 A	Tony Rogers	184 A
Cheryl Morgan	100 A	Steve Rogerson	48 A
Chris Morgan	154 A	Howard Rosenblum	233 A
Pauline Morgan	155 A	June Rosenblum	232 A
Tim Morley	11 A	Michelle Rosenblum	231 J
Roger Morris	321 A	Stephen Rothman	198 A
Carol Morton	180 A	David Row	114 A
Tony Morton	181 A	Marcus Rowland	71 A
Miriam Moss	255 A	Yvonne Rowse	193 A
Mr Tom	308 A	Simon Russell	303 A
Caroline Mullan	83 A	Ruth O'Reilly	315 A
munchkin	269 A	Lena Sarah	237 A
Munquie	273 A	Fiona Scarlett	293 A
Murphy's Lawyer	176 A	Alison Scott	192 A
Paul Neads	222 A	SHA	270 A
New Moon	115 A	Tom Sherlock	238 A
Hazel Newman	285 A	Shoadin	355 A
Robert Newman	284 A	Gavin Shorrocks	228 A
Nick Honeywell	318 A	Ina Shorrocks	168 A
Nojay	98 A	Thomas Simpson	254 I
Nolly	156 A	Mark Sinclair	186 A
James Odell	236 A	Sally Sinclair	185 A
Paul Oldroyd	33 A	Ken Slater	281 A
Omega	179 A	Mark Slater	190 A
Ken O'Neill	201 A	Dan Smithers	75 A
Arwel Parry	57 A	Jane Smithers	289 A
Brian Parsons	61 A	Jonathan Smithers	348 I
Pat Reynolds	89 A	Lucy Smithers	163 A
Andrew Patterson	320 A	Nathaniel Smithers	76 I
Andrew Patton	205 A	Smitty	265 A
Hal Payne	178 C	Anne Smout	345 A
Jodie Payne	177 I	Smurf	133 A
Penny Hill	353 A	Sneerpout	307 A
Tommy Persson	271 A	Adrian Snowdon	129 A
Pete Young	278 A	Michael Spiller	96 A
Heather Petty	256 A	Square Bear	27 A
Catherine Pickersgill	60 A	Jesper Stage	200 A
Gregory Pickersgill	59 A	James Steel	242 A
Marion Pitman	221 A	Stef	28 S
Mark Plummer	40 A	Andrew Stephenson	90 A
Silas Potts	77 A	Susan Stepney	109 A
Ceri Pritchard	225 A	Steve	18 A
Henry Proctor	240 A	Steve Davies	138 A
Judith Proctor	239 A	Barbara Stewart	251 A
Danielle Ray	230 A	David Stewart	244 A
Thomas Recktenwald	32 A	John Stewart	252 A
Peter Redfarn	195 A	Ian Stockdale	121 A
Redjack	354 A	June Strachan	266 A
Sarah Reeson	335 A	Lars Strandberg	54 A
Trevor Reynolds	88 A	Gary Stratmann	246 A
John Richards	9 A	Linda Stratmann	245 A
Roger Robinson	69 A	Marcus Streets	123 A
Rod O'Hanlon	26 A	Mathilda Streets	125 C
Roger P	126 A	Rae Streets	124 A
Mic Rogers	10 A	Anne Sudworth	323 A

Robert Tarver
 Charlotte Taylor
 Graham Taylor
 Ian Taylor
 Kathy Taylor
 The Bellinghman
 The Forgetful Dr S
 The Magician
 David Thomas
 Tibs
 TJ
 Tobes
 Dave Tompkins
 Paul Treadaway
 Chris Tregenza
 Lennart Uhlin
 Valerie
 Larry van der Putte
 Marion van der Voort
 Richard van der Voort
 Jan van 't Ent
 David Wake
 Nick Walker
 Mark W. Waller
 Danie Ware
 Peter Wareham
 Ian Watson
 Jessica Watson
 Robert Watt
 Alan Webb
 Gerry Webb
 Karen Westhead
 Kathy Westhead
 Mike Westhead
 Peter Westhead
 Eileen Weston
 Peter Weston
 Laura Wheatly
 Charles Whyte
 Bridget Wilkinson
 Peter Wilkinson
 Phil Willis
 Anne Wilson
 Woad Warrior
 Wolfenstien
 Alan Woodford
 Anne Woodford
 Ben Yalow
 Mark Young

342 A
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 67 A
 292 A

What's a ... Badge Name?

When you join a convention, you may be offered the option of having a **Badge Name**. Your given name will not be shown on your membership badge at the convention, but will be replaced with a name of your own devising.

Some fans become so well known by their badge names that their given names are only known to holders of membership databases.

It is a matter of courtesy that a badge name becomes your public name as far as the convention is concerned. It will be used in any publication of the membership list and in any mention of you in the programme.

If your real name is shown here and you would prefer a badge name, please let John Dowd know.

We would prefer that there are no duplicate badge names, if you request one that already exists, John will be in touch.

What's an ... Alter Ego?

Every member of Paragon2 has been given a randomly generated alter ego, picked out of the Sofa's magnificent Easter Bonnet. They're mostly the sort of people you see below - heroes, villains and sidekicks.

Yours is printed on the address label that came with your PR, or in your membership confirmation email from John. If you've tossed that already, get in touch with us and we'll tell you what the security system is for finding it out. There's also a system for changing it if you want to, but don't bank on that as we might have already issued your chosen identity to someone else.

There's an article on what they're for and what you can do with them in PR1.



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<http://www.paragon2.org.uk>