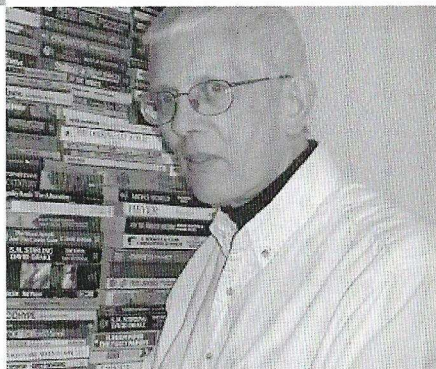
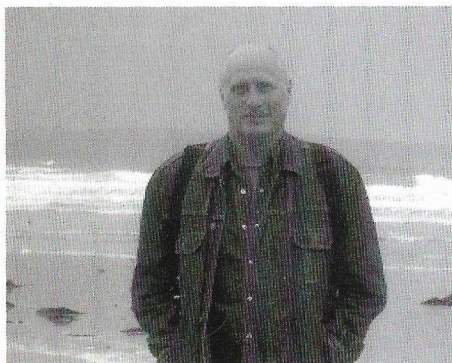


88 NOVAGONI



Programme Book



14th-16th November 2008

Quality Hotel, Bentley, Walsall

Guest of Honour: Ian R MacLeod

Fan Guest of Honour: Vernon Brown

The Chair Speaks

Helena Bowles

So, here we are, again. Time for the Programme Book and, as I write, Novacon 38 is nearly upon us. Things have evolved, the programme is pretty much finalised, the beer is arranged and the committee are all booked into their local psychiatric hospital.

The first thing to announce is the launch of our Guest of Honour's new book, *Song of Time*, at our Friday night party. I strongly recommend investing part of your convention book buying budget in this powerful and moving novel. A full review will be available on the night, along with wine and nibbles, and copies of the book. We'd like to thank Pete Crowther of PS Publishing for sponsoring the party. Raise your glass to him.

We have a very strong programme this year and have returned to the tradition of having two Serious Science Speakers. We are delighted to announce the inclusion of Doctor David Evans, of the University of Birmingham, who will talk to us about particle physics, mini black holes, antimatter, extra dimensions, and his work on the Large Hadron Collider. Feel free to ask him how they broke it...

We welcome back to Novacon, an old favourite, Professor Emeritus Jack Cohen who will be talking about Darwin and evolution. Yes, we know the Bicentennial is actually next year, you pedantic gits, but if it's good enough for Richard Dawkins then it's good enough for us.

One difference we have this year is in the marking of the SF GCSE. In order to allow time for his Fan Guest of Honour duties Vernon has decided to mark the papers after the convention. The winner will be notified by post. Answer sheets are in the programme pack and the envelopes to put them in will

be available from registrations. We will be having a prize draw for all entrants at the closing ceremony.

Of course I have thanks to give: firstly to our wonderful Guests Ian and Vernon. Buy them a drink. Secondly, I want to thank the staff of the Quality Hotel for their hard work over the weekend.

Novacon could not run without the small army of staff and helpers who freely give their time over the weekend. Thanks to Julia and Rachel for running the Artshow, Chris for organising ops, Al for being Official Driver to the convention Dave for getting and nurturing the real ale, Martin and Steve for PR1 and Noel for tech-ops. Steve and Kev have done a marvelous job with the website. Keep your eye on it for details of next year's Novacon. And a big thank you to all the people who volunteer to Gopher. We couldn't do it without you.

Last, but absolutely not least, I need to thank my long-suffering committee: Steve Lawson for keeping track of all your memberships and hotel booking forms, Tony Berry for carrying your concerns to the hotel, Richard Standage for not breaking down when key programme participants dropped out and for gamely taking on Publications as well, and Alice Lawson for keeping tight hold of the money and keeping us all in line. Alice, as part of her quest to dominate British Conrunning, has also stepped up to the post as Chair of Novacon 39. Thank you, all.

Ian R Macleod

Jay Tomio



When listening in on a discussion pertaining to the pre-eminent Science Fiction writers today - whether in discussion of novels or short fiction - one can tell the value and worth of the coterie's choices in how long it takes them to mention the name of Ian R. MacLeod. Glancing at the names of those who have sat in the guest of honour chair of previous

Novacons suggests that prolonged eavesdropping at these gatherings is recommended, along with ample paper and a sure pen. Their choice this year continues this trend, a tradition of excellence and, in true fashion of our chosen vocation of identifying and recognizing crowned and uncrowned grandmasters who achieve their status taking, traversing, and telling, they all come down unique paths. The quality of being a visionary is just a portion of the qualification, the skill of observation just a means to the end that is a storyteller's release, and the delivery by Ian R. MacLeod is one of precision, an atypical perfection that in one line surrounds us with beauty and in the next haunts us with what lurks. To begin, MacLeod's fiction does us - the reader - the benefit of acknowledging that we understand and accept the fantastic prior to ever picking up his books; it goes through no motions, it requires no staging or excuses - he sells us nothing, and though Macleod doesn't consciously sit down to write Science Fiction stories he jumps down the trapdoor discovered by another:

“Anything you dream is fiction, and anything you accomplish is science, the whole history of mankind is nothing but science fiction” - Ray Bradbury

MacLeod turns those dreams into worlds, and then records them for us to peregrinate, and in all his work is our ingenuity - our *science* - and both playfully and with gravity throws it against backdrops alien and familiar. What separates us from others sharing our planet is that we are *explorers*, and though Updike once remarked, “*A narrative is like a room on whose walls a number of false doors have been painted; while within the narrative, we have many apparent choices of exit, but when the author leads us to one particular door, we know it is the right one because it opens.*”, it is the Science Fiction author who comes back and turns false doors into portals and either walks through them himself or leaves them for others to consider, others to catalogue, and MacLeod’s novels are doors; his short fiction, windows.

Before I was aware of MacLeod his *The Great Wheel* had years before won the Locus Award for outstanding debut novel. It wasn’t until his *The Light Ages* that I became aware of him. The first of two books, along with *House of Storms*, blends the fantastic with industry, and the latter tells of a fall. There is no dearth of fictionalized Londons on the shelf and aether-powered or not it is almost impossible to add something of value to that tradition, but MacLeod finds those unturned doors leading us to and introducing one of the most under-mentioned and menacing characters in recent fiction in Alice Meynell. More recently MacLeod has taken us to *Summer Isles* and *Song of Time*. The first is an Orwellian concept, an alternative history that deals with sex, identity fascism - another

example of looking back at what didn't occur, to offer warning now of that fact. *Song of Time* - his latest work - is a chameleon, a story of the type that Kelly Link once told me she strives to write, one that confronts but doesn't get in the way, that morphs upon further reading; the experience changing as we ourselves gain or lose in experience.

Within his collections, *Voyages by Starlight*, *Breathmoss and other Exhalations*, and *Past Magic* can be found perhaps the most accomplished and complete catalogue of short fiction that can be claimed over the last decade, containing stories that have won and/or been finalists for Hugo Awards, World Fantasy Awards, Sidewise Awards, the Nebula, Sturgeon and Tiptree honours. I say complete as there is little fat or fluff; they don't consist of one lucky or chance award-winning story surrounded by slush pile undesirables - they all garnered acclaim or otherwise seem overlooked, nothing rough - indeed he could have a collection called *Diamonds in the Smooth*. Perhaps the Millennium Star in his stack of literal gems is *New Light on the Drake Equation*, a dirge that flips around the practice of reflecting on our world through speculative eyes and instead examines our whimsy and promises with hard reality, but still not totally abandoning the innate quality of all explorers - sanguinity - and for that *we listen, we wait*. We wonder.

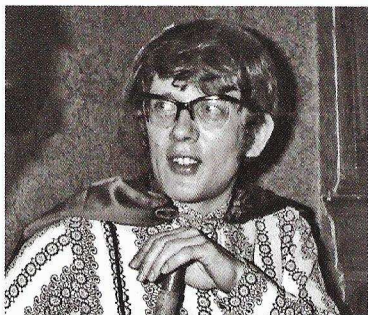
A simple glance at just even the titles suggest an author aware of his own measure, his own voice; it is that of resonance. MacLeod reminds us, but straightens the reflection revealing our blind spots whether looking at our past or peering into them, plucking them and making with them our lens. It is easy to call MacLeod a writer of alternate history, or perhaps more aptly

alternative history. These aren't lies, but look back and often accompany a transformation, a disturbance, whose ripples and causalities are the subject of Macleod's observation.

The first time I was ever able to communicate with Ian R. MacLeod he was putting names like McMurty, Proust, Updike, and Keith Roberts in the same sentence. Just before, he considers others named Silverberg, Ballard, Ellison, Aldiss and Delany, and terms like *well read* or *diverse tastes* may be the first thoughts that enter one's mind - the first that enters mine is *well traveled*. Science Fiction is that space that exists between the mundane and the unreal, it is the fluid frontier where the status quo is continually challenged, where resides endless cities, and summer isles lie a turn of the head apart. The explorers of that space, the ones who take invisible cities and inhabit them for us, give them voice, spin the biggest lies, are writers we must most honour, the ones we ironically put our most trust in, and Ian R. Macleod is one of the most cherished of our cosmiccomicnauts,

Vernon the Man

Peter Weston



Vernon Brown. VERNON BROWN!! I mean, *what* a truly great name for a science fiction fan! Either a fantastic coincidence or Vernon's parents had a crystal ball, since that's a pretty fair translation of 'Werner (von) Braun' and like his German namesake our man has had his eyes firmly set upon the stars for most of his lifetime.

We met for the first time in 1967 though if it hadn't been for Rog Peyton it could have been three years earlier. Vernon had enquired about our little Brum Group (in the old days - Darroll calls us 'The Ancient Brummies' - gathering in Charlie Winstone's front room in Erdington to play 'Risk' and talk about the stories we'd read). He was living with his parents in Quinton with a house already full of books, a stone's throw away from Rog, and one or the other of them should simply have gone around and said 'hello'. But they didn't, and Vernon didn't like the sound of our group, or at least not the way Rog explained it in his letter, so he missed that opportunity to join us.

Big Mistake! Because I know how lonely it is when you're the only person in the world who likes reading science fiction and you desperately want company. Exactly the same thing happened to me - I too was 'put off' by a misunderstood initiative that delayed my discovery of fandom for three precious years. So when Vernon The Fan finally did make contact his psyche was in a super-saturated state, just bursting to crystallise-out that long-suppressed Fannish Tendency in a blaze of enthusiasm and activity. And in some ways that's never changed.

But back then it was Vernon the Technician at the University of Aston (or was it still the C.A.T.? No matter). Either way he looked down from the height of his twenty-something seniority on the hopeless rabble of 'students' who couldn't be trusted to switch off a gas tap or turn off the water after a laboratory session. So when my pal Bob Rickard (serving time at the College of Printing) tried to start his 'speculative' society at the commencement of Autumn term, 1967, Vernon was a willing if slightly suspicious recruit.

I came along for the third meeting by which time Bob had already thrown in the towel on his vision of a latter-day Lunar Society and had accepted the inescapable realisation that he had a bunch of SF nuts on his hands. But joy! - the Students' Union handed out grants to 'educational' societies and the money allowed them to pay expenses for professional authors to visit Aston. On the night I attended they had John Brunner, and he was insufferable.

Elegant in corduroy the silly man gave a pompous lecture on writing theory to a roomful of youngsters who had no idea what he was talking about. Fortunately he went early, after which we proceeded into a very scruffy bar to talk science fiction and Bob introduced me to an earnest young woman called 'Pauline' with blue-framed glasses and long hair who thought I was Brunner's secretary, heaven forbid! There were two 'Alans,' a merry chap with the wonderful name of 'Ray Bradbury' and a scowling, heavy-set fellow in a navy blazer. I misheard his name as 'Bernard' and thought he was a member of staff who'd come to chuck us out.

Well, these little misunderstandings were soon sorted-out - Vernon hadn't really been scowling, it was just that his face had got out of the habit of smiling - and within weeks we had established a cosy symbiotic relationship, the Aston University SF Group and I. They collated the pages of my fanzine *Speculation* on the blood-stained benches of Vernon's biology lab, while I handed out review copies and stood a round afterwards in the pub across the road.

This happy state of affairs continued for several years while I gradually came to appreciate how totally committed Vernon was to the international science fiction conspiracy. He was soon running the Aston group - Bob Rickard was much happier to float around the edges with his artwork and Oriental philosophy. The group provided an excellent way for me to dispose of unwanted fanzines that I'd been sent in trade (the rule is never, ever, destroy a fanzine - always try and drop it on someone who may find it instructive) and gradually, I suppose, something of the larger world of fandom rubbed off on Vernon and his acolytes.

Bob travelled to *Thirdmancon* in 1968 with Eileen and me, in the back of my clapped-out Cortina, and slipped easily into the company of Greg & Leroy and the other Rats. Vernon was slightly slower off the mark and while we think he was probably at the *Galactic Fair* the following year, neither of us can be sure; me, because I was recently married and had other things on my mind, Vernon because he has an absolutely rotten memory for names and places!

But he was certainly around at the 1970 *Sci-con*, Britain's all-time lousiest convention (the one that failed to mention SF in the entire programme) and it seemed only natural that Bob and Vern should join Rog and me on the committee when we won an impromptu bid to run the Eastercon in 1971 (our only opposition came from Brian Burgess with a bid for Swanage - I wonder how that one might have turned out!). Come the day Vernon did sterling work in setting out the tables and notices for registration, although afterwards he complained, "Rog and I ended up running the desk most of the day on Friday. Then we found we couldn't lock the door to the Art Room from the outside, so we had to leave it by the fire-exit and go out through the cellars. Then it was back to the desk again on Saturday, except for a few minutes of fiddling with the projector for Jack Cohen's slide show." And no time off for good behaviour!

I also suspect - though can't prove - that it was Vernon's enthusiasm for dressing-up which was responsible for the quite

unprecedented outbreak of superb Fancy Dress outfits at *Eastercon 22*. Yes, this side of his character has lain quietly forgotten for the last twenty years but it's absolutely true - know him now as Vernon the Costumer (or maybe as 'Sheelba of the Eyeless Face', another outfit from another con).

So many of them came from the Aston Group. Pauline was resplendent in blonde wig and purple silk as the Goddess Kali, Alan Donnelly as a Yellow Martian, Alan Denham as the 'Overlord' from CHILDHOOD'S END, Dave Riley was 'The Reptile', another one - Prof, was it? - was a very convincing Human Fly, Ray Bradbury was an Officer of the Imperium, while our star 'Vernon The Barbarian' appeared in a gleaming aluminium helmet for which he must have called-in innumerable past favours from the University fabrication shop. I distinctly remember him explaining (quite correctly) that "Vikings didn't wear horned helmets - that's just a Hollywood myth".

And I also remember how the idea of a *second* annual convention was born at the collating session for *Speculation 26*, in the late Spring of 1970 after we'd won the Eastercon. By this time the Aston group was in its third year and Vernon said they'd rather like to take on some sort of project, to bring themselves into better contact with mainstream fandom. Why didn't I just suggest "produce a fanzine"? But instead I painted a picture of the great glory that would accrue from organising an entirely new con in the autumn, six months removed from the annual bash. "You could use the Imperial Hotel - it's a bit small for an Eastercon but there's a good bar and the manager reads SF. If you organised something at the end of October or in early November I'm sure you'd get enough support."

With characteristic reserve Vernon didn't sound too convinced and I thought no more of it until the next session of paper-shuffling when he proudly trotted-out the title of 'Novacon' which I had to agree was a natural-born winner. The rest is history; with Vernon in the chair the con was an instant hit and it attracted over 150 people. Since by then the Aston

team had all but disintegrated in the usual manner of University groups (they graduate and go home) we quickly bolted-on *Novacon* to the framework of the newly-reborn BSFG and here we are today, thirty-eight years later and still wearing the same trousers!

We had a fine time in the early seventies with the new Brum group - "a mini-con every month" as I once called it, and pretty soon Vernon went onto the committee, never to come off again (according to Rog he has been Vernon the Chairman at least fifteen times, off and on). And we saw a lot of each other around that time because with two young children I was effectively 'grounded' and most Saturday afternoons for a couple of summers Vernon would come over to our Beeches Drive house and help me dig my garden. We'd talk science fiction while we laboured and Eileen would cook us a big dinner of steak and chips after which he'd sit back with the exclamation, "that was *damn* good," a comment still occasionally heard in the Weston household after a particularly satisfying meal. He's actually Vernon the Godfather to my second daughter, Lucy, and his benign influence seems to have worked well because she has turned out to be a complete atheist, just like him.

A little later Eileen and I were instrumental in luring Vernon to live in our vicinity with his bride-to-be, Pat Baxter. (She came in through an SF course I ran for a couple of years for the Extra-Mural Department of Birmingham University; we had a Miss Marsh and a Miss Baxter, which tickled me at the time). I remember driving Vernon and Pat around to view various des. res. properties in Erdington and Wylde Green when they started looking for a home of their own, with the strict criteria that they should have plenty of room for books - an absolute 'must' for two serious SF fans!

But our interests had started to diverge. Vernon was one of the very first British fans to embrace the newly-accessible European fandom by going to a con in Ghent, in Belgium, something which held absolutely no appeal for me. Soon afterwards he went to the first *Eurocon* in Trieste, from which he brought back the 'Europa' fanzine award for *Speculation*.

(A ceramic sculpture with lots of curly bits, varnished in dark brown and looking like nothing so much as a Victorian table-leg. Good old Vern carefully nursed it on his lap throughout the coach-journey back from Italy, but I think I might have preferred the rather more handsome bronze medals presented to the runners-up which had the great virtue of being able to resist being broken by small children).

Fanzines came between us, a bit, as well. With a few exceptions Vernon has never really taken much to fanzines and by the mid-seventies we were in a 'Golden Age' for fannish fanzines with such titles as *True Rat*, *Wrinkled Shrew*, *Egg*, *Maya*, *Stop Breaking Down*, and so on, which I eagerly embraced. Then I became absorbed with the prospect of the British worldcon in 1979, and there was the trifling matter of having to support a young family through the recession-hit late seventies. And, of course, Vernon and Pat had their own lives to lead, travelling around in Europe and America, both for cons and more mundane excursions.

So, all in all, we've drifted apart, a little, even to the extent of Vernon having forgotten my name ("that chappie in Sutton") on one occasion; I *said* he had a really rotten memory! But we're still really the same people that we were forty-one years ago, except that he's a lot thinner and I'm a lot fatter. So now it's finally Vernon the Fan GoH - not before time - and I'm proud to have helped to bring him onto the scene.

(Photo: Vernon at Novacon 2. Photo by Mike Meara.)

Ian R. MacLeod Bibliography

Books:

Voyages By Starlight (Arkham House, 1996). Short Story Collection

The Great Wheel (Harcourt Brace, 1997). Novel.

The Light Ages (Earthlight/Ace, 2003). Novel.

Breathmoss and Other Exhalations (Golden Gryphon, 2004). Short Story Collection.

The House Of Storms (Simon & Schuster/Ace, 2005). Novel.

The Summer Isles (Aio, 2005). Novel.

Past Magic (PS Publishing, 2006). Short Story Collection.

The Summer Isles and Other Stories (Hayakawa Publishing Japan, 2008). Short Story Collection.

Other Selected Short Stories:

Through (Interzone, Jul/Aug 1989)

The Family Football (Interzone, Nov 1991)

The Dead Orchards (Weird Tales, Spring 1994)

Sealight (F & SF, May 1994)

Swimmers Beneath The Skin (Asimov's, Oct/Nov 1996)

The Roads (Asimov's, April 1997)

Chitty Bang Bang (Asimov's June 2000)

Taking Good Care Of Myself (Nature, May 2006)

The Master Miller's Tale (F & SF, May 2007)

The Hob Carpet (Asimov's, June 2008)

Committee profiles.

Dave Hicks

So you're living your modern lifestyle, sat in the convention, sipping a skinny decaf latte while wirelessly updating your blog with an amusing incident from the hotel Jacuzzi when from behind you hear a cry of despair as a gopher slips while attempting to carry nine cases of extra-strength continental parsnip beer labelled **Lief Von Mars**.

The last things you remember are a tower of bottles coming straight at your head, followed by a fuzzy sense of tubes, machines that go ping and concerned relatives leaning over you.

This all fades in an ironically cheap BBC special effect and reality crispens back around you in the form of a world and a hotel lounge that's not just familiar but all too horrifyingly familiar.

The economy's on the blink; there's a fuel crisis; Bruce Forsyth and Dr Who rule Saturday night and AC/DC have just released a new album. All the refinements of modern fandom have disappeared and you stagger through the scrum at the bar pausing to congratulate Peter Weston on his Nova success, into a corner, slump down and realize to your horror you've just joined the committee...

Times are tight so you're offered the drink stashed illicitly under the table: a cracked glass filled from the aging Watneys Party Seven which is impossible to pour discretely without getting it on your clothes. It makes a fizzing noise on your Chinos.

The Chair, **Helena Bowles** is a Novacon stalwart who's served on many committees, works a bookshop telling people whatever they want isn't in stock but can be obtained in as little as six weeks while slipping convention flyers into Harold Robbins novels. You shudder in displaced embarrassment as someone

nearby says: “There will never be woman con chair as long as I have a hole in my arse!”

Suddenly **Tony Berry** shouts: “Don’t move - you’re surrounded by drunk bastards!” before lapsing back into semi-consciousness. A Novacon stalwart who’s served on many committees, Tony is **Hotel Liaison** this time around. Tony is a locksmith by trade and if you’ve lost your key he’ll happily come round with his tool kit of hammer, large hammer and very large hammer.

Richard Standage, who is running **Programme** turns and says: “Anything bad happens to this convention and I’ll be around your houses to stamp on all your toys. Got it? Good kids!” A Novacon stalwart who’s served on many committees, Richard tells you quietly that he’s hoping to move out of **Martin Tudor’s** house soon and is planning a romantic encounter with that nice **Helena Bowles**.

Alice Lawson, the **Treasurer**, decides they can afford a round of drinks from the bar and produces a pair of one-pound notes to pay for it. A Novacon stalwart who’s served on many committees, Alice is a civil servant responsible for the only photocopier in Scotland, and is sure life in the public sector will be much less stressful once we’ve got a Labour government. The hotel manager appears in the corner of your eye and Alice drags you rapidly through the crowd at the bar: “Why are we running? Because he wants paying!”

You look at the cramped squalor and say to **Steve Lawson**: “This hotel is like Guantanamo Bay!” He looks blankly and replies: “Keep off - it’s nothing like Spain!” Steve drives all over Britain to tighten the springs on cash till drawers and change plugs on the new electrical models. A Novacon stalwart who’s served on many committees, Steve is in charge of **Registrations** which he manages meticulously with latest index-card technology.

The Programme

Richard Standage

Friday

19.00-19.30 Opening Ceremony

Meet the committee and our two guests, find out what treats are in store for you over the weekend, and find out to volunteer your services.

19.30 - 20.30 Room 101

Guest of Honour Ian R MacLeod reveals his arch dislikes to host Steve Green in our spin on the popular TV show.

21.00 - 22.00 Book Launch Party

Join us in celebrating the launch of Ian's new book, *Song of Time*. Come and be one of the first people to own a copy. Free wine and nibbles courtesy of the publisher.

22.30 - 00.00 Charades

Come and help wind up our first evening with a bit of physical silliness. All welcome, no previous experience required.

Saturday

10.00 - 11.00 LHC, the Universe and Everything
Dr. David Evans from the University of Birmingham brings us up to date on the Large Hadron Collider project. In particular he'll be discussing particle physics, mini-black-holes, anti-matter, extra-

dimensions, and an exotic state of matter that existed a millionth of a second after the Big Bang. Get your early morning brain in gear.

11.30 - 13.00 Book Auction

Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will help you expand your extensive book collection with some second hand but well loved bargains.

13.30 - 14.30 Guest of Honour Interview

Get to know Ian our Guest of Honour. Interviewed by John Jarrold.

15.00 - 16.00 Visions of the Future: 1984 or Brave New World?

The stark reality of George Orwell's *1984* is often held up as a social warning of where society is heading, but is Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* closer to the mark? Douglas Spencer leads the discussion, with Ian MacLeod, Vernon Brown and Helena Bowles.

16.30 - 17.30 Fan Guest of Honour Interview

It's our Fan Guest of Honour Vernon Brown's turn to tell us all about himself. Interviewed by Rog Peyton.

18.00 - 19.00 Are We Being Assimilated

Just how much do Google and the other popular search engines know about our surfing habits and private life? Is our privacy under threat and should we be worried? Charlie Stross moderates with Liam Proven, Simon Bradshaw and Harry Payne.

19.30 - 20.30 Film

Come and enjoy a celluloid treat or two, chosen by Steve Green.

21.00 - 22.00 **They Stole My Future, Or Did They?**
Fans of SF often bemoan that the technological promises made in all those stories from our childhood never happened and our life is poorer as a result. But is this really justified, or is the future we were promised here after all? Alice Lawson moderates, with Ian MacLeod, Vernon Brown and Tony Berry.

22.30 - 00.30 **Science Fiction Pub Quiz**
The return of the Novacon favourite. Put together a team and come and show off your knowledge of the obscure and downright bizarre. Dave Hicks and Tony Berry are your question masters.

Sunday

10.30 - 11.30 **Darwin's Watch Revisited**
Dr Jack Cohen makes a welcome and long overdue return, giving us his spin on the life and work of Charles Darwin.

12.00 - 13.30 **Art Auction**
All that art work you have been salivating over all weekend in the art show, now it can be yours to decorate your lounge. Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will be banging the gavel.

14.00 - 15.00 **Fandom's Trousers of Time**
What if Gernsback had never run a letter column in *Amazing* and fandom as we understand it had never existed? Would it instead have begun with *Doctor Who* back in the 1960s, or taken a completely different

path? Greg Pickersgill debates the issue with other panellists.

15.30 - 16.30 Live Journal Blogged My Zine

Is there any future for printed fanzines and even conventions now a significant chunk of fans communicate via Live Journal and blogs? Is there any need to meet up in a set location let alone print a fanzine? Steve Green moderates with Bug, Fran Dowd other similarly technologically minded people.

17.00 - 18.00 Awards Ceremony

Its time to say a big thank you to all those who made it possible, give out lots of fabulous gifts and prizes, and award the Novas.

19.00 - Late Beer and Food Tasting

It's not quite over yet. Come and sample some traditional Worcestershire food and interesting beer and soft drinks and kick back with all the people with no homes to go to (or at least had the foresight to book Monday off work). Entry ticket required, available at the Registration Desk throughout the weekend for a small fee or in exchange for three bottles of your favourite beer.

General Certificate of Science Fiction Education (And Draw)

Vernon Brown

On the next few pages you will find a GCSE Question Paper. You should also find a loose A4 size Answer Sheet - if not please contact Registration.

This is a multiple choice quiz. Each question has been given several answers, only one of which is correct. They are often abbreviated because giving them in full would make the correct answer too obvious. You must match your answer to one of the given ones. It's a bit like being given specifications for making a key, together with five different locks. If the key is made correctly it will fit one of the locks, if it's not, it won't.

Instructions

1/ There are three Sections to the Paper - Section B is easy, Section A is medium and Section C has harder questions. You have to submit two Sections which must include Section A. If you submit Sections A&B you will obtain an Ordinary Level GCSE Certificate if you pass, if you submit Sections A&C you will gain an Advanced Level GCSE Certificate if you pass. Pass mark is 40% and each Certificate is graded.

2/ Read each question, decide on your answer and match it to a given answer. When you have answered as many questions as possible decide whether you will submit Sections A&B or Sections A&C. If both Levels are submitted only the Ordinary Level paper will be marked. Please submit your answers under your own name, precociousness is one thing, giving a certificate or draw prize to an infant is another.

3/ The Answer Paper has numbered and lettered squares that correspond to the questions and answers on the Question Paper. Carefully BLOCK OUT with black or blue ink, ballpoint or felt tip the squares corresponding to your chosen answers. Do NOT circle, cross or otherwise mark the squares, or use pencil, because the marking mechanism will not be able to cope with it and your paper will be rejected. If you make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.

4/ Similarly block out the square corresponding to the LEVEL you are submitting ([O]* OR [A]*) and the SECTION you have chosen ([O]* OR [A]*). PRINT your name and address legibly in the space provided - your answer paper will be returned to you with this part showing through the window of a window envelope so the postal services must be able to read it.

5/ Post your Answer Paper in the GCSE box at Registration before 12.00 NOON on SUNDAY, but watch the GCSE posters for any alteration to this deadline. Please only fold it once on the arrowed line. All Answer Papers submitted will be entered into a free draw.

6/ This year papers will not be marked at Novacon but afterwards, certificates will be posted to you. The draw prize will be given at the Closing Ceremony.

7/ Finally, Certificates will be sent directly to you, no one else will know how you have done unless you tell them. So please have a go, you may be better than you think.

Section A Questions

- 1/ Who wrote 'The Sleeper Awakes'?
a.ACC b.HGW c.IA d.JB e.JRRT
- 2/ What was the name of Isaac Asimov's robot psychologist?
a.CB b.JS c.MM d.SC e.SH
- 3/ Which author created the concept of 'Slow Glass'?
a.ACC b.BS c.HH d.JT e.RH
- 4/ What song did HAL 9000 sing as he was being unplugged?
a.BBBS b.DD c.FJFJ d.PAC e.SLP
- 5/ The 1936 film 'Things To Come' was based on whose novel?
a.AEVV b.ERB c.GP d.HGW e.JV
- 6/ Who wrote 'A Fall of Moondust'?
a.ACC b.IA c.JB d.JV e.RH
- 7/ In 'From the Earth to the Moon' (JV) what is the spaceship firing cannon called?
a.A b.C c.E d.G e.I
- 8/ In which decade was the term 'Science Fiction' first used?
a.1880s b.1890s c.1900s d.1910s e.1920s
- 9/ In 1938 whose radio version of 'War of the Worlds' terrified many Americans?
a.EH b.HI c.HO d.LO e.OW
- 10/Who was the heroine of Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis'?
a.A b.F c.M d.T e.Y

11/Which season is missing from the 'Helliconia' trilogy?
a.Spring b.Summer c.Autumn d.Winter

12/Who wrote 'Rocket Ship Galileo'?
a.ACC b.AEUV c.HBP d.NS e.RAH

13/On which John Christopher novel is the film 'No Blade of Grass' based?
a.EWF b.TCLV c.TDOG d.TGIG e.TPFS

Questions 14 - 17. Identify the story or film from which the following quotes come.

14/ 'Klaatu barada nikto' (film).
a.CEOTTK b.FP c.FSFOS d.TDTESS e.TTFOS

15/'You can't fight in here - this is the War Room' (film).
a.DS b.IFOS c.TA d.WOTW e.WW

16/'Yarbles! Bolshy great yarblockos to thee and thine!' (story).
a.AA b.ACO c.BOG d.ST e.TFW

17/'Put down that wrench!' (story).
a.ACM b.BUH c.GG d.MTM e.WGT

Section B Questions

18/Who are the Hugo Awards named after?

- a.HG b.HGW c.HT d.JH e.RAH

19/In which decade was the film 'Metropolis' first made?

- a.1890s b.1900s c.1910s d.1920s e.1930s

20/Which alien wanted to phone home?

- a.BT b.ET c.Gort d.Mork e.No 5

21/What was Dan Dare's personal spaceship called?

- a.Anastasia b.Digby c.Ethel d.Milly e.Queeny

22/Who played Barbarella?

- a.DD b.JF c.JM d.MM e.VL

23/Name the subterranean 'humans' in 'The Time Machine' (HGW).

- a.Crevites b.Eloi c.Morlocks d.Reats e.Sothics

24/Who wrote 'The Day of the Triffids'?

- a.BA b.GO c.JC d.JW e.NS

25/In 'Back to the Future' (film) what form did the time machine take?

- a.Archway b.Belt c.Car d.Chair e.Radio

26/What is Barsoom (ERB) called in English?

- a.Mercury b.Venus c.Earth d.Mars e.Jupiter

27/Ray Harryhausen is best known for his what?

- a.Editorship b.Film directing c.Painting d.Special effects e.Writing

28/Who wrote 'War of the Worlds'?

- a.IA b.HGW c.JB d.JV e.WM

29//In 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' what is the answer to everything?

a.BHEER b.DN c.FT d.SOMA e.YOGA

30/Name Captain Nemo's submarine.

a.Enterprise b.Explorer c.Hammerhead d.Nautilus e.Seafarer

31/What colour is the Clangers' Moon?

a.Red b.Orange c.Yellow d.Green e.Blue

32/In what do the aliens in 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' grow?

a.Crabs b.Dogs c.Eggs d.Humans e.Pods

33/Who wrote 'Journey to the Center of the Earth'?

a.ERB b.HGW c.MS d.RH e.JV

Section C Questions

18/In which de Camp novel does a timetraveller use Arabic maths to establish himself in ancient Rome?

- a.ABF b.ATDA c.LDF d.NRT e.TRR

19/Who wrote 'Voyage of the Space Beagle'?

- a.AEVV b.CS c.JBG d.JWS e.RAH

20/From which language is the word 'Robot' derived?

- a.Czech b.French c.Polish d.Russian e.Swedish

21/Which HG Wells novel was subtitled 'A Grotesque Romance'?

- a.TFOTG b.TIM c.TIODM d.TTM e.WOTW

22/Name Georges Melies 1902 classic film, the first SF film epic?

- a.AJIS b.F c.LVDLL d.TPOM e.TTLUTS

23/In which film does H G Wells pursue Jack the Ripper into modern times using a time machine?

- a.APTT b.NTLTP c.TAT d.TTK e.TTM

24/Who invents Psychohistory in Asimov's 'Foundation' stories?

- a.HS b.LL c.RDO d.VL e.ZTK

25/When did Edison film the first, 16 minute long, version of 'Frankenstein'?

- a.1890-95 b.1896-1900 c.1901-1905 d.1906-1910 e.1911-1915

26/Who wrote 'The High Crusade'?

- a.HBP b.HK c.JB d.MM e.PA

27/Which RL Forward novel describes an intelligent race on a neutron star?

- a.CK b.DE c.MR d.NS e.WR

28/Who created the character of Jerry Cornelius?

- a.BA b.BS c.DR d.JP e.MM

29/What is the name of the Martian in 'A Martian Odyssey' (G Weinbaum)?

- a.Annatel b.Breden c.d'reech d.F'thah e.Tweel

30/Who wrote 'Bring The Jubilee'?

- a.BH b.JC c.PD d.VJ e.WM

31/Which 1966 BBC telemovie showed a nuclear attack upon an English town?

- a.AEC b.EVA c.NA d.TSW e.TWG

32/Which Shakespeare play inspired 'Forbidden Planet' (film)?

- a.AMND b.JC c.LLL d.RAJ e.TT

33/In 'Quatermass and the Pit' at which Underground Station was a spaceship found?

- a.Burntwood b.Devil's Bridge c.Helstone Close d.Hobb's End e.Horns Lane

The Nova Awards

Steve Green, Administrator

In 1973, Novacon instituted the annual Nova Awards to celebrate achievement in British science fiction fanzines. Originally handed down by a panel of judges, these accolades are now decided by Novacon members who can demonstrate a basic knowledge of current fanzines.

Following Novacon 32, the three categories - best fanzine, best fanzine writer, best fanzine artist - were extended to cover fanzines produced in Eire. In addition, electronic fanzines are now eligible, provided a hardcopy is lodged with the current administrator at 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ, UK.

Last year's winners were *Prolapse*, Mark Plummer and Alison Scott (see below for the full breakdown); the Novacon 37 committee also announced its own "best fan" Nova, presented to Peter Weston.

The detailed rules for the 2008 Novas are posted at the Novacon website. Additional copies are available at our registrations desk.

2008 Nova "Longlist"

The following fanzines were received by the Nova Awards administrator between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008 inclusive, and are eligible for the 2008 awards:

Ansible #243 [10/07], #244 [11/07], #245 [12/07], #246 [1/08], #247 [2/08], #248 [3/08], #249 [4/08], #250 [5/08], #251 [6/08], #252 [7/08], #253 [8/08], #254 [9/08; all 2pp, all A4], Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AU (#255 appeared after the 30 September cut-off) - download from ansible.co.uk

Banana Wings #32 [32pp, A4], #33 [32pp], #34 [36pp], #35 [48pp, A5], Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES

Brum Group News #433 [10/07], #434 [11/07; both 12pp], #435 [12/07], #436 [1/08; 8pp, all A5], William McCabe for the Birmingham Science Fiction Group (issue #444 [9/08; 12pp], edited by Rog Peyton, was received after the 30 September cut-off but had been distributed prior to it)

Journey Planet #2 [52pp, A5], James Bacon & Chris Garcia (with Claire Brialey), 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES (see below for note on #1's eligibility)

Motorway Dreamer #5 [34pp plus binding, A4], John Nielsen Hall, Coachman's Cottage, Marring Hill, Ramsbury, SN8 2HG

No Sin But Ignorance #47 [12pp], #48 [14pp, both A4], Claire Brialey, address as above

Outlaw Mutation Boogie #65 [12pp, A5], Mark Plummer, address as above

Plokta #38, #39 [both 14pp, A4], Steve Davies, Alison Scott & Mike Scott, 13 Collette Court, Eleanor Close, London, SE16 6PW

Prolapse #9 - #11 [all 40pp], #12 [44pp, all A4], Peter Weston, 53 Wyvern Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2PS - download from efanazines.com

Procrastinations #5 [20pp], #6 [16pp, both A5], John Coxon, 14 Chapel Lane, Peterborough, PE4 6RS - download from efanazines.com

Quasiquote #6 [20pp, A4], Sandra Bond, 40 Cleveland Park Avenue, London E17 7BS (issue #7 appeared after the 30 September cut-off)

Quantum Bullocks #0 [A4, 2pp], Jinnie Cracknell, 100 Balsall Heath Road, Birmingham, B5 7NQ

Virtual Tucker Hotel #1 [5pp], #2 [11pp], #3 [6pp], #4 [1pp], #5 [10pp], #6 [7pp], #7 [5pp], #8 [6pp], #9 [4pp], #10 [3pp], #11 [5pp], #12 [6pp], #13 [7pp], #14 [5pp], #15, #16 [both 4pp], #17 [7pp], #18 [6pp, all A4], Peter Sullivan (although primarily an electronic fanzine, paper copies are available upon request) - download from efanazines.com

The following fanzines were not received by the Nova Awards administrator, but appear to meet the eligibility criteria (thanks to Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey for their assistance): *Bye Bye Johnny* #2 [28pp, A4], Graham Charnock; *Inca* #3 [44pp, A4], Rob Jackson; *iShoes* #2 [20pp, A5], Yvonne Rowse; *More Balls* #4 [2pp, A4], Ang Rosin - download from efanazines.com

The following were also received between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008 inclusive, but are ineligible under the current rules: *The Anatomic Air Review* #4 [12pp, quarter-quarto], Sinoun Chea, Post Office Box 1602, Decatur, GA 30031, USA; *Beam* #1 [26pp, A4],

Nic Farey, Post Office Box 178, Saint Leonard, MD 20685, USA - download from efanzines.com; *Bento* #19, #20 [both 48pp, quarter-quarto], David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97215, USA; *Chunga* #13 [30pp], #14 [36pp, both quarto], Andy Hooper & Randy Byers & Carl Juarez, 1013 North 36th Street, Seattle, WA 98103, USA; *Data Dump* #117, #121-125 [4pp, A5], £0.70 / US\$2.00, Steve Sneyd, Hilltop Press, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury, HD5 8PB; *Festival of Fantastic Films Progress Report* Vol.19 #1 [8pp, A5], Tony Edwards for the Society of Fantastic Films (#2 arrived after the 30 September cut-off); *Index* [2pp, quarto], Nic Farey, PO Box 178, Saint Leonard, MD 29685, USA; *Journey Planet* #1 [52pp, A4], James Bacon & Chris Garcia (produced during a programme item at Orbital, the 2008 Eastercon; an extensively revised version was later posted to eFanzines, but so far there has not been a paper release) - download from efanzines.com; *Littlebrook* #6 [29pp, quarto], Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, Post Office Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165, USA; *No Award* #17 [32pp, quarto], Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore Street #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606, USA - download from efanzines.com; *Novacon 37 Programme Book* [36pp, A5], Steve Green for Novacon 37; *This Here...* #9 [12pp, A4], Nic Farey, address as above; *Trapdoor* #25 [60pp, half-quarto], Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA 94611-1948, USA; *Vanamonde* #713-717, #723-737, #749-762 [all 2pp, all quarto], John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA; *Watershed* #3 [16pp, quarto], Andrew Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125, USA; *Whistlestar* #7 [46pp, quarto], Lenny Bailes, 504 Bartlett Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA.

2007 Nova Awards

The 2007 Nova Awards were presented by Novacon 37 guest of honour Charlie Stross on 6 November. Special thanks to Charlie, to the late Ray Bradbury for designing and producing the statuettes, and to the late Ann Green for processing the ballot forms and to all those who voted.

Full breakdown: **Best Fanzine:** *Prolapse*, edited by Peter Weston (43 points); 2, *Banana Wings*, edited by Claire Brialley & Mark Plummer (38); 3, *Tortoise*, edited by Sue Jones (19); 4, *iShoes* (11);

5, *Plokta* (9); 6=, *Gotterdamering Redux, Procrastinations* (7); 8=, *Demeter's Daughter, I Knew the Porridge Was Trying to Tell Me Something* (5); 10, *Brum Group News, Fanzine of the Teledu* (4); 12=, *A Cry For Help, Foundation & Empire, Head, Outlaw Mutation Boogie* (3); 16=, *Inca* (2); 17=, *Clues & Gropes, Motorway Dreamer, Phlizz* (1). **Best Fan Writer:** Mark Plummer (32 points); 2, Claire Brialey (30); 3, Peter Weston (19); 4, Yvonne Rowse (9); 5, James Bacon (8); 6=, Tanya Brown, Sue Jones (6); 8=, Julian Headlong, Tony Keen, Max (5); 11=, John Coxon, Mark McCann (4); 13, Giulia De Cesare (3); 14=, Abi Brown, Niall Harrison, Rob Jackson, Dave Langford, Ang Rosin (2); 19=, Tommy Ferguson, Flick, Christina Lake, Kari Maund, Dave Spencer (1). **Best Fan Artist:** Alison Scott (26 points); 2, Sue Jones (19); 3, Sue Mason (17); 4, Anne Stokes (7); 5, Arthur "ATom" Thomson (6); 6=, Steve Jeffery, Pete Young (4); 8=, Peter Harrow, John Toon (3); 10, Flick (1). A single second-place vote for Taral Wayne was disallowed, as he is not resident in either the UK or Ireland. **Best Fan** (awarded by the Novacon Committee): Peter Weston.

Past Winners

1973: *Speculation* #32, ed. Peter Weston ¹
 1974: *Zimri* #6, ed. Lisa Conesa; *Big Scab* #2, ed. John Brosnan ²
 1975: *Maya* #8, ed. Rob Jackson
 1976: *Maya*, ed. Rob Jackson
 1977: *Twll-Ddu*, ed. Dave Langford
 1978: *Gross Encounters*, ed. Alan Dorey
 1979: *Seamonsters*, ed. Simone Walsh
 1980: *One-Off*, ed. Dave Bridges
 1981: *Tappen*, ed. Malcolm Edwards (best fanzine); Chris Atkinson (best fanzine writer); Pete Lyon (best fanzine artist) ³
 1982: *Epsilon*, ed. Rob Hansen; Chris Atkinson; Rob Hansen
 1983: *A Cool Head*, ed. Dave Bridges; Dave Bridges; Margaret Welbank
 1984: *Xyster*, ed. Dave Wood; Anne Hammill; D West
 1985: *Prevert*, ed. John Jarrold; Abi Frost; Ros Calverly
 1986: *Pink Fluffy Bedsocks*, ed. Owen Whiteoak; Owen Whiteoak; Atom
 1987: *Lip*, ed. Hazel Ashworth; D West; D West

1988: *Lip*, ed. Hazel Ashworth; Michael Ashley; D West
 1989: *VSOP*, ed. Jan Orys; Simon Polley; Dave Mooring
 1990: *FTT*, ed. Joseph Nicholas, Judith Hanna; Dave Langford; Dave Mooring
 1991: *Saliromania*, ed. Michael Ashley; Michael Ashley; D West
 1992: *Bob?*, ed. Ian Sorensen; Michael Ashley, Dave Mooring
 1993: *Lagoon*, ed. Simon Ounsley; Simon Ounsley; Dave Mooring
 1994: *Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk*, ed. Greg Pickersgill; Greg Pickersgill; D West
 1995: *Attitude*, ed. Michael Abbott, John Dallman and Pam Wells; Simon Ounsley; D West
 1996: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Alison Freebairn; D West
 1997: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Mark Plummer; Sue Mason
 1998: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Maureen Kincaid Speller; D West
 1999: *Barmaid*, ed. Yvonne Rowse; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason
 2000: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason
 2001: *Head*, ed. Doug Bell and Christina Lake; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks
 2002: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks
 2003: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason
 2004: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason
 2005: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott
 2006: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason
 2007: *Prolapse*, ed. Peter Weston; Mark Plummer; Alison Scott

¹ Initially, a single Nova Award was presented for “best fanzine”, as decided by a panel of “worthy fans”.

² This was the only occasion the panel opted for a tie. The current rules allow for a tie only if the voting patterns are identical.

³ Two new categories were introduced in 1981. In addition, each Novacon committee has the opportunity to present a “best fan” Nova Award, though not all do so; recipients include Ina Shorrock, Vernon Brown, Ken Slater, Ray Bradbury and Peter Weston.

The History of Novacon

The first Novacon was organised in 1971 as a one-off event by the Aston University Science Fiction Group, but its success led to the convention being adopted by the neighbouring Birmingham SF Group from 1972 onwards. For the first seven years, the choice of guest of honour alternated between pro authors and leading fans.

In the list below, the figure in brackets relates to membership numbers at the time each programme book went to press, rather than the final attendance (in addition, problems with the printing of Novacon 14's programme book meant an entire month's new members were effectively excluded). Note: the Excelsior changed its name to the Forte Post House.

Novacon, 1971 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	James White Chairman: Vernon Brown
Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate.		

Novacon 2, 1972 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Doreen Rogers Chairman: Pauline Dungate
Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds.		

Novacon 3, 1973 (146)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Ken Bulmer Chairman: Hazel Reynolds
Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman.		

**Novacon 4,
1974** Imperial Centre **Ken Slater**
(211) Birmingham Chairman: Dr Jack Cohen
Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds.

**Novacon 5,
1975** Royal Angus **Dan Morgan**
(272) Birmingham Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton.

**Novacon 6,
1976** Royal Angus **David Kyle**
(317) Birmingham Chairman: Stan Eling
Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton.

**Novacon 7,
1977** Royal Angus **John Brunner**
(278) Birmingham Chairman: Stan Eling
Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford.

**Novacon 8,
1978** Holiday Inn **Anne McCaffrey**
(309) Birmingham Chairman: Laurence Miller
Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright.

**Novacon 9,
1979** Royal Angus **Christopher Priest**

Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd.

Novacon 10, 1980	Royal Angus	Brian W Aldiss
(495)	Birmingham	Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton.		
Novacon 11, 1981	Royal Angus	Bob Shaw
(362)	Birmingham	Chairman : Paul Oldroyd
Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert.		
Novacon 12, 1982	Royal Angus	Harry Harrison
(373)	Birmingham	Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert.		
Novacon 13, 1983	Royal Angus	Lisa Tuttle
(339)	Birmingham	Chairman: Phil Probert
Committee: Chris Donaldson, Eunice Pearson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes.		
Novacon 14, 1984	Grand	Robert Holdstock
(333)	Birmingham	Chairman: Steve Green
Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent.		
Novacon 15, 1985	De Vere	James White

Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor.

**Novacon 16,
1986**

De Vere

E C Tubb

(257)

Coventry

Chris Evans

Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter.

**Novacon 17,
1987**

Royal Angus

Iain M Banks

(315)

Birmingham

Chairman: Bernie Evans

Committee: Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole, Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams.

**Novacon 18,
1988**

Royal Angus

Garry Kilworth

(336)

Birmingham

Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor.

**Novacon 19,
1989**

Excelsior

Geoff Ryman

(426)

Solihull

Chairman: Martin Tudor

Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Nick Mills, Pam Wells.

**Novacon 20,
1990**

Excelsior

Dr Jack Cohen

(330)

Solihull

Chairman: Bernie Evans

Committee: Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage.

Novacon 21, 1991	Forte Post House	Colin Greenland
(200)	Ex. Excelsior Solihull	Chairman: Nick Mills
Committee: David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy.		
Novacon 22, 1992	Royal Angus	Storm Constantine
(300)	Birmingham	Chairman: Helena Bowles
Committee: Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage.		
Novacon 23, 1993	Royal Angus	Stephen Baxter
(350)	Birmingham	Chairman: Carol Morton
Committee: Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage.		
Novacon 24, 1994	Royal Angus	Graham Joyce
(214)	Birmingham	Chairman: Richard Standage
Committee: Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.		
Novacon 25, 1995	Chamberlain	Brian W Aldiss
(338)	Birmingham	Harry Harrison Bob Shaw
	Special guest: Iain M Banks	Chairman; Tony Morton
Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.		
Novacon 26, 1996	Ibis	David Gemmell

(281) Birmingham Chairman: Carol Morton
Committee: Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 27, 1997 Abbey **Peter F Hamilton**

(277) Great Malvern Chairman: Martin Tudor
Committee: Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Mike Siddall.

Novacon 28, 1998 Britannia **Paul J McAuley**

(265) Birmingham Chairman: Martin Tudor
Committee: Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy.

Novacon 29, 1999 Britannia **Ian Stewart**

(239) Birmingham Chairman: Carol Morton
Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 30, 2000 Britannia **Christopher Priest**

(224) Birmingham
Special guest: Rog Peyton
Guest artist: David A Hardy
Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, David Cooper, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 31, 2001 Quality **Gwyneth Jones**

(219) Walsall Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 32, 2002	Quality	Ian McDonald
(252)	Walsall	Chairman: Martin Tudor
Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson.		
Novacon 33, 2003	Quality	Jon Courtenay Grimwood
(203)	Walsall	Chairman: Martin Tudor
Committee: Cat Coast, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson.		
Novacon 34, 2004	Quality	Ian Watson
(227)	Walsall	Chairman: Martin Tudor
Committee: Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Steve & Ann Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse.		
Novacon 35, 2005	Quality	Alastair Reynolds
(216)	Walsall	Chairman: Tony Berry
Committee: Vicky Cook, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast.		
Novacon 36, 2006	Quality	Ken MacLeod
(245)	Walsall	Chairman: Tony Berry
Committee: Dave Hicks, Steve Lawson, Alice Lawson, Helena Bowles, Vicky Cook.		
Novacon 37, 2007	Quality	Charles Stross
(227)	Walsall	Chairman: Steve Green
Committee: Vicky Cook, Steve Lawson, Ann Green, Alice Lawson, Kevin Clarke.		

The Nova Awards

Since 1973, the Nova Awards have celebrated the best in British fanzines. If you're reading this at Novacon 38, please pick up a ballot form, check the rules on eligibility (you need to have seen six different UK / Irish fanzines this year) and Vote before Sunday!

Novacon 38 Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Ian R MacLeod | 36 Rachael Wright |
| 2 Vernon Brown | 37 Ian Maughan |
| 3 Helena Bowles | 38 Roger Robinson |
| 4 Tony Berry | 39 Barbara-Jane |
| 5 Alice Lawson | 40 Marcus Thierstein |
| 6 Steve Lawson | 41 Chris Stocks |
| 7 Richard Standage | 42 Adrian Snowdon |
| 8 Steve Green | 43 Niall Gordon |
| 9 Ann Green | 44 Dave Langford |
| 10 Kevin Clarke | 45 Tony Rogers |
| 11 Tim Stannard | 46 Steve Davies |
| 12 Claire Brialey | 47 Giulia De Cesare |
| 13 Mark Plummer | 48 Paul Dormer |
| 14 Neil Summerfield | 49 Peter Wareham |
| 15 Rog Peyton | 50 Gwen Funnell |
| 16 Stephen Dunn | 51 Dave Hardy |
| 17 Caroline Mullan | 52 Peter Mabey |
| 18 Brian Ameringen | 53 Steve Cooper |
| 19 Meriol Ameringen | 54 Sue Edwards |
| 20 Neil Tomkinson | 55 Thomas Recktenwald |
| 21 Alison Tomkinson | 56 Pat Brown |
| 22 Michael Abbott | 57 Martin Tudor |
| 23 Anne Wilson | 58 James Odell |
| 24 Julian Headlong | 59 Anne Woodford |
| 25 Dave Tompkins | 60 Alan Woodford |
| 26 ½r | 61 Pauline Morgan |
| 27 David Thomas | 62 Chris Morgan |
| 28 Margaret Croad | 63 Sue Jones |
| 29 Caroline Loveridge | 64 Jim Walker |
| 30 Gavin Long | 65 Steve Jeffery |
| 31 Dave Hicks | 66 Vikki Lee France |
| 32 Cat Coast | 67 Dave Lally |
| 33 Penny Hicks | 68 Al Johnston |
| 34 Peter Wright | 69 Steve Jones |
| 35 Anne-Marie Wright | 70 Dave Holmes |

- 71 Harry Harrison
72 Brian Aldiss
73 Ray Bradbury
74 Carol Bradbury
75 Charles Stross
76 Karen Hetherington
77 Ken MacLeod
78 Alastair Reynolds
79 Tara Dowling-Hussey
80 Jennifer Swift
81 Ina Shorrock
82 Gavin Shorrock
83 Alex Holden
84 Chris O'Shea
85 Ian Warner
86 Eddie Stachelski
87 Dave Cox
88 David Cochrane
89 Del Cotter
90 Ian Watson
91 Tobes Valois
92 James Bacon
93 Bridget Wilkinson
94 Peter Wilkinson
95 Liam Proven
96 John Dowd
97 Fran Dowd
98 Andrew A. Adams
99 John Merry
100 Gerry Webb
101 Alan Webb
102 Mali Perera
103 Yvonne Rowse
104 Ian Sorensen
105 Elanor
106 Austin Benson
107 Caro Wilson
108 Greg Pickersgill
109 Catherine Pickersgill
110 Sue Mason
111 Bridget Bradshaw
112 Duncan MacGregor
113 Pat Rigby-McMurray
114 Julie Rigby-McMurray
115 David C Holmes
116 Helen Holmes
117 Robert Day
118 John Harvey
119 Eve Harvey
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