



NOVA CON
40

PROGRAMME
BOOK

SMC JONES 2010



BIRMINGHAM
Science Fiction
GROUP

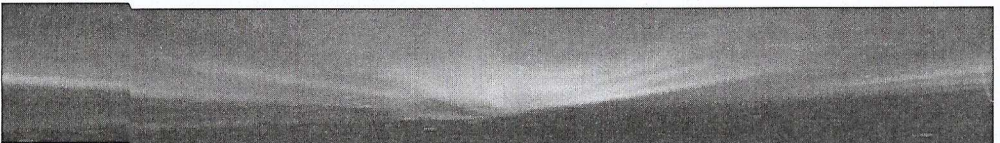
The Birmingham Science Fiction Group was founded in 1971 to enable local and not so local fans to get together to discuss science fiction and related topics.

We meet on the second Friday of every month, 7:45pm at the Briar Rose Hotel on Bennett's Hill in Birmingham, just 5 minutes walk from New Street Station and handy for all bus routes. We usually start the evening with a guest speaker, often a professional in the field such as Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett or Peter Hamilton.

If you live anywhere in or around the West Midlands, the BSFG is the group for you! For further information, and a copy of our monthly newsletter, please:

Email: BHAMSFGROUP@YAHOO.CO.UK

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.birminghamsfgroup.org.uk



Novacon 40

12-14 November 2010

The Park Inn, Nottingham

Guest of Honour: Iain M Banks

Special Guest: Brian W Aldiss

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Acknowledgements

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Chairman's Bit the Last

Vernon Brown

It's here at last or, as it's more likely that you are reading this after returning home, it was (t)here at last! The culmination of months of discussions at committee meetings and via hundreds of emails and its all over in a matter of days. Details will be found as usual elsewhere in this programme book but it should be an excellent weekend if the work put into organising it is anything to go by.

Here I'd like to point out that it was the rest of the committee who did all the hard work. If you look at the Contact Details you will see that everyone else has a proper job to do, it's only the Chairman whose job is his position. I contributed a certain amount but when you think of the sheer time and work necessary to ensure that the multitudinous pieces of a convention such as Novacon 40 join seamlessly you realise what sterling work they do. They deserve everyone's thanks but will also accept drinks. And on the weekend itself the others who keep things running smoothly with, for example, equipment or in the Art or film rooms, also deserve our thanks.

As I have said on several occasions I have to be careful not to steal others thunder but I can generalise a little. Being the 40th Novacon the con is special in itself but it promises to be a weekend to remember in other ways. Not only do we have a goodly gathering of fans but we have a large number of past GoH attending, 17 at the last count, so not only will the Programme have some excellent speakers but the Bar will also have its quota. There are parties and competitions planned as well so make sure that you peruse your READ ME as soon as you get it.

So, enjoy the weekend and don't forget to join Novacon 41 before you leave.

Iain Banks

John Jarrold

It's February 1986. Mexicon 2, at the Royal Angus Hotel in Birmingham (the venue for many past Novacons). Thirteen years since my first con, but this should be special. William Gibson and Iain Banks are going to be there. I've corresponded with Gibson and he's read my fanzine, but I've never met Banks, whose first convention this is; although I've read *THE WASP FACTORY* and *WALKING ON GLASS*, the only novels of his to have been published at this point.

I'm walking from the bar to the lounge when I see a bloke laying flat out on the floor, with a glass of beer sitting on his chest. I lean over him.

"Didn't you used to be Iain Banks?" I say.

He opens his eyes. "I *think* so," he replies.

So that's how I met Iain Banks. We talked, became friends and have remained so for 24 years.

Iain is one of the most important SF novelists (and mainstream novelists) of the last thirty years. I was lucky enough to be his SF publisher from 1988 to 1992, when I ran *Orbit*. And that included seeing *USE OF WEAPONS* into print; it remains my favourite of Iain's SF novels to this day. But Iain is also one of the most fun people I've ever met. Interesting, witty, garrulous, fast of thought...we've had some great times at cons, at publishing lunches and elsewhere. We even remember some of them.

With Iain as a GoH a committee is never lost, wondering what he'll be interested in talking about on the programme. He's interested in *everything*. And he loves sitting in the bar and chatting. He is the perfect guest. And I hope you've read some (or all) of his books before the con. Both those published as 'Iain Banks' and those published as 'Iain M Banks'. I honestly can't imagine why anyone

would read one 'side' and not the other. In his SF, Iain's wit, intelligence, word-play and invention are phenomenal. His creation of the Culture, a working communist utopia spanning the galaxy, is lovingly described; but he never forgets that every Eden has its serpent – or serpents. His books, rightly, have their dark side. None more so than *USE OF WEAPONS*. It took me bloody ages to work out the blurb for that – which Orbit still use – back in 1990. After you've read it, you'll understand why!

The names Iain comes up with – for both characters and spaceships – are rightly famous. I learn to say the characters' names out loud. It's good practice. And the ship names make me laugh, as do his sardonic AI drones. Time and again, a scene, a concept, an idea, leaps out from his book: the Eaters in *CONSIDER PHLEBAS*; the game in *THE PLAYER OF GAMES*; the brilliant phonetic language of Bascule in *FEERSUM ENDJINN*; the brilliantly conceived planet in *MATTER*; the ship conversations in *EXCESSION*; the Slow Seers of *THE ALGEBRAIST*; or what has been called 'an infernal form of Second Life' in his new Culture novel, *SURFACE DETAIL*. But none of that matters...unless you care about the characters. And with Iain's characters you certainly do care. If the devil is in the detail, Iain Banks is the devil incarnate. Telling details inform all his protagonists, and his minor characters. And he tells wonderful stories – which is, after all, the first rule of a novel. It is as far as I'm concerned, anyway.

What you'll find with Iain at Novacon is that he plays the con guest wonderfully, for a novelist with such a prodigious talent. But here's a secret: he's not playing. He enjoys life, in all its many and varied shades, as much as anyone I know. The phrase 'Carpe Diem' could have been created for him.

Oh, Banksian anecdotes...

We were both at the 1988 Worldcon in New Orleans. Iain was mostly keeping a watching brief at the con, so we left the hotel and wandered down Bourbon Street, where we bought plantation owners' hats and

sat in a bar, smoking thin cheroots. And telling jokes. Which this local woman couldn't understand because of our accents. No, we said, *you* have an accent. Then we retreated.

If you've read RAW SPIRIT, Iain's non-fiction book about malt whisky – which is as near as an autobiography as you'll ever see, so he says – you'll know about his climbing escapades at the 1987 Brighton Worldcon. On the outside of the fourth floor of the hotel. Between one balcony and the next. "I wasn't climbing," he said. "I was *traversing*..." Yeah, right, Iain. A world of difference.

And I recall a launch party for one of his novels. Iain understood that the drinks would be free from 6, when the party started, to 8, after which everyone would have to pay. So we drank a few (Neil Gaiman, Kim Newman and others will recall this – if somewhat foggily). And just before 8 his publisher came in.

"Right, the drinks are free from now on!" he said.

Oh. So we all had an evening of free drinks...and then it goes dark.

And I haven't really mentioned his mainstream books – whether it's THE BRIDGE, or TRANSITION and the others which create a . . . bridge . . . to his SF; or the wonderful ESPEDAIR STREET, about a rock band, which always puts me in mind of Fleetwood Mac and Fish from Marillion (who said "Who?"). Get Iain to tell you about the time he met Fish and they had a serious discussion; or THE CROW ROAD, WHIT and THE STEEP APPROACH TO GARBADALE, which are informed by his Scottishness, sense of humour and, as all his books, his brilliant observation of character. And, of course, if you haven't read his debut THE WASP FACTORY, you should do so immediately. It made me laugh out loud when I first read it, before that 1986 convention. Still does.

Welcome Iain to Novacon. Have fun. Be delighted, as I am, that he's around in our lifetimes: a wonderful, wonderful writer – and a great and good man.

Novacon Memories

How could I possibly forget every detail of Novacon 15? Quite easily, it seems, showing that I had far too much fun as lesser Guest of Honour. The main man was the great and good James White, which inspired me to try a pastiche of his Sector General hospital-station stories for the special GoH booklet. This was deeply foolhardy, but I clung to the hope that Jim would be too nice to hit me (and of course he was).

Obviously the convention should get a name check, so I afflicted Jim's hero Senior Physician Conway with a visiting VIP doctor called Nocavon, from "the backward planet Murb". And beer had to come in somewhere, so poor Conway's latest patients were 87 billion tiny, telepathic yeast-creatures, physiological classification VINO: to understand them he had to take a VINO Educator tape, which made the idea of real ale seem uncomfortably like genocide. What's more, when Conway thought about his gorgeous girlfriend Nurse Murchison, he had this powerful urge to lie with her in a bath of warm, nitrogen-rich sugar solution and gently divide in two...

The plot got much sillier after that, not to mention metaphysical, and I awaited Jim's reaction nervously. He said, deadpan, that it had given him an idea. And that, gentle reader, is how I contributed a tiny full stop's worth of inspiration to the Sector General novel *The Genocidal Healer*, by James White. How I wish he was still with us.

Dave Langford

Last time I wrote one of these I said: 'Novacon 36 was a blast, so much so that I remember very little of it.' Kind friends may blame the cider and real ale. (Yes, I was really well looked after.) I attribute any errors or omissions entirely to having my brain eaten by Feorag's plush Cthulhu within moments of my arrival.

As time goes on, though, memories begin to surface.

In my GoH talk I said that science fiction was the first truly human literature and that SF fans were the bestest, brightest people in the world, which for some reason my audience seemed delighted to hear. On other occasions I said things that didn't go down nearly so well. 'Get rid of books you're not likely to read again, or even read at all!' went down like a Hubbard dekalogy bound in radioactive lead from that distant, alien galaxy where they have a different Periodic Table. Quite right too - I'm still shelling out for some of the books I got rid of, usually in the charity shops I gave them to. My Room 101 nomination of George Orwell led to a Two Minute Intense Polite Disagreement.

At the Art Auction I bought the original of David A. Hardy's splendid cover for my GoH chapbook, *The Invasion Dream*, and I still have it very proudly displayed at home. Storm Constantine and Ian Watson tried to convince me that quantum magic works, by crossing my palm with nickel and telling me I'd find a 20p piece in some unexpected place before the end of the con. Nope. But it led to some very interesting conversations, usually beginning: 'Ken, why are you standing on that thing?'

As I also wrote earlier: SF fandom is endlessly welcoming, or so I've found it, and especially Novacon. Long may it continue.

Ken Macleod

Novacon 29 was the first and only time I've been GoH at a con—the peak of my SF career. I'd been to cons before, though. Jack Cohen introduced me to Terry Pratchett at Novacon 20, and that led to an enjoyable friendship and, not to be sneezed at, the three *Science of Discworld* books. My badge collection tells me that I attended Novacons 16, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. After that, things got in the way—mainly foreign travel.

Novacon 29 was in central Birmingham's Britannia Hotel, which was a bit vertical. The con spread over several floors, with much upping and downing in lifts. Unless I'm very much mistaken, this was the year that a member whom I will identify only as JC brought two corn snakes with him/her/it, and I spent the whole of one panel discussion with a snake wrapped round my hand. They're non-poisonous, but look very dramatic with red, black and buff bands shouting fake warnings... Anyway, the point is that JC left the hotel with *one* corn snake, after the other escaped from its box and disappeared into the hotel wall-spaces. I still vaguely wonder whether there is now a gigantic corn snake lurking beneath the hotel floorboards, getting ready to emerge and cause havoc...

In one event I showed the BBC's outtakes on my 1997 Christmas Lectures, the only time I have ever shared a lecture room with a tiger. The bit where we failed five times to 'accidentally' break a teapot — as part of a sequence on time travel— amused everyone and so did the bit where the volunteer from the audience opened the door to reveal the car at the wrong moment in an analysis of the Monty Hall paradox. Three doors, two with goats, and one with a car... you remember.

I'm delighted to have been invited back for this splendid celebration of 40 years of Brummie fandom.

Ian Stewart

The Great Convention Double Act

Peter Weston

Brian and Harry... Harry and Brian, the names go together like ham and eggs (*but which one is the ham?*) with a double-act that's been around forever. Well, for fifty-three years, actually, back even before Rog Peyton and I became fans, but I'll get to that in a moment. First, my own memories, starting in 1964.

On my very first visit to Oxford I remember spotting the road-sign for 'Marston Street', which gave me a quick thrill of recognition for I knew this was where a Famous Professional Science Fiction Writer lived. I'd seen the address in a book – *Non-Stop*, probably – and I'd been reading everything by Brian Aldiss ever since being captivated by the oddly-titled *Space, Time And Nathaniel* ('STAN' for short) in Birmingham Central Library right back when I first discovered adult SF. I'd enjoyed his first novel, *The Brightfount Diaries*, about life in a bookshop, and various collections; he was someone I felt I 'knew', even though we'd never had any contact.

By then I was producing a fanzine and the December *Zenith* was a bit of a breakthrough number in which the first shots were fired in what was to become the 'New Wave' controversy. I sent a copy to Brian Aldiss and he responded magnificently, beginning with the line "Although you devote overmuch space to that arch lowbrow Heinlein, you more than recompense your readers by the thrilling spectacle of Moorcock and Jeeves bleeding and dying for their beliefs."

Now we really *were* in contact, and I would shortly meet him in person.

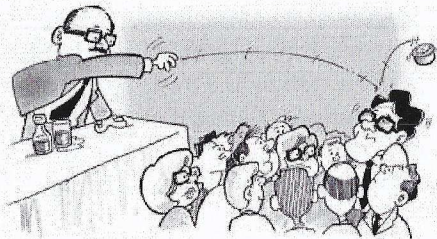
Harry Harrison was another Big-Name Science Fiction Author. I'd liked his 'Stainless Steel Rat' in the December 1957 British-edition of *Astounding* (and always think of that as his first SF story though in fact he'd been selling since 1951. But 'Rat' is the one everyone remembers), and I'd followed his name through the 'Deathworld' sequence and other stories, including his famous short in *New Worlds*, 'The Streets of Ashkelon'.

Harry moved around a lot in those days – Mexico, New York, London – and by 1963 he was living in Denmark. But he was a member of the BSFA (can you believe it?) which made his address available when Rog and I sent out the second *Zenith*. Harry, bless him, was one of the few people to respond, writing “it’s as stuffed with facts like an egg with meat”, so in one sense I ‘knew’ Harry even before Brian. He followed up with other LoCs and a particularly long and meaty one in issue 9 (about ‘The Ethical Engineer’).

But before that arrived I’d met him in person.

The occasion was the 1965 *Brumcon*, held in April at the gloomy old Midland Hotel in New Street. Harry was Guest of Honour and as he appeared in front of the 10-foot-high black demon figure of Mike Higgs’ backdrop (which we’d spent the previous evening painting) Brian Aldiss shouted, “You’re casting a long shadow today, Harry!”

This was the opening shot in the Brian & Harry Show which would entertain us for the next 36 hours. The highlight was Harry’s GoH address titled ‘SF Confidential’. To the uninvited accompaniment of the Salvation Army brass band playing in the street below, he launched into an unrehearsed and hilarious expose of the private lives of the American SF fraternity. Partway through Brian entered the room, late back from lunch, and with a great roar of “this pie is *rotten!*” Harry seized an unsold pork-pie from Brian Burgess in the front row and hurled it at Brian, narrowly missing the reporter from the *Birmingham Post* who observed in the next day’s paper that ‘the pie was still nestling inside its protective cellophane wrapper (British Railways issue)’. A few months later Brian and Tom Boardman bombarded Harry with pies at the second London world convention. Thus are born the great traditions of British fandom.



But we need to go back to the previous British worldcon to find the origins of this great comic partnership, back to the shabby London of 1957.

Brian wrote, "The convention was held in a terrible hotel in the Queensway district. A distinctly post-war feeling lingered. Bomb damage was still apparent. There was no mistaking the general American recoil from the ghastliness of plumbing and food, and their amazement at the prostitutes parading along the Bayswater Road. The whores had not adjusted their make-up to the new sodium lighting, and looked as if they could offer mankind nothing better than necrophilia."

It was Brian's first foray into the 'family life' of science fiction and he had written only a handful of short stories, mostly for Ted Carnell, which Faber collected in hardcovers around this time as STAN. He was just 32, had recently gone free-lance and as he writes in his autobiographical volume *Bury My Heart At W.H. Smith*, he was struggling with the twin problems of poverty and a broken marriage, but nonetheless and with some misgivings, he went to the convention anyway.

Harry was also 32 but he'd been supporting himself for years by editing, illustrating, and writing for the pulps and men's magazines, and he knew his way round SF fandom. Married to Joan and with a young baby he'd just moved back from Mexico to New York where he'd sold 'Rat' to *Astounding*. Hearing about Dave Kyle's plan to bring a plane-load of fans to *Loncon* for \$100.00 return-ticket he signed-up on the spot, becoming one of the 76 Americans who attended the Worldcon, where John W. Campbell was Guest of Honour.

And somewhere in those five days Brian and Harry 'clicked'.

"What was the attraction?" I asked Brian. "You'd seem to have had nothing in common except your ages and yet you formed this enduring friendship."



He replied, "It's a good question, as much a sociological as a psychological one. In 1957, London was still bestrewn by ruins from the time of the Blitz. I was still trying to adjust to no longer being in the East, in the army. I loved the East and there was much about England I hated. I had made a disastrous marriage. I didn't know London.

“Harry's situation was somewhat similar. He had sold a story to John W. Campbell and plonked the money from that down on a flight to England for himself and Joan and the small kid. We were both, in different ways, living in alien territory. We had been in different armies but we had both learnt that one way to deal with adversity was to tough it out and laugh it off. We were both tough and both felt we didn't really belong in the SF tribe at the time, though clearly we had much in common with that tribe.”

After the con Brian went back to Oxford and his troubles, to complete *Non-Stop* from a furnished room, to buy his little house on Marston Street and eventually to meet and marry Margaret. Harry stayed in London at a “dreadful B&B” before going on to Denmark where he wrote *Deathworld* and its sequels. They kept in touch, but didn't see each other again for four years until *LXIcon* at Gloucester in 1961, where they had a fine time with GoH Kingsley Amis and the scholarly Geoff Doherty, who gave them the idea for *SF Horizons*, intended to be a critical magazine about science fiction.

Brian continued, “In sixty-three we met again, this time in Trieste. We were there for the new Trieste Science Fiction Film Festival, and we stayed in the Grand Hotel et de la Ville, which had once briefly been the British Embassy. The films were shown up in the Castelo de San Giusto. Trieste has an amazing history; there we met Joe the Jug, who guided us to the railway station where we drank slivovicz. A wonderful drink, like Jugoslavia from which it came.

“Harry and Joan drove me over the border into Jugland (as we called it - it means Southland). It was hot, unruly, backward. At once I felt at home. We drank the local wine at a gostilna and ate oozing fat black olives. Bliss. At once, I determined I must have more of Jugland. Next year, I took Margaret and a used Land Rover to tour all Jugland and write my one travel book, *Cities And Stones*. We lived like gypsies and met up with Harry and Joan at a coastal town called Makarska. The arrangement had been made months before, yet we pulled into the car park within ten minutes of each other. Great fun!

“Harry brought us good Danish food and some good books and we swam in what later we discovered was the town sewer, emptying into the Adriatic. Harry asked me, ‘What induced you to do this crazy trip?’ (We were away for half-a-year.) I said, ‘I was in search of those big fat black

olives...' 'I bought them in Trieste marketplace,' said Harry. 'The Jugs don't grow olives like that.' I realised to my chagrin he was more cosmopolitan than I.

"After that jaunt, we often stayed with Joan and Harry. They and the kids had a house towards the north of Denmark, not so far from Elsinore, Hamlet's castle. The Danes were great, as were the Swedes. We often stayed in Stockholm with our local pal, Sam Lundwall, who ran a magazine, *Jules Verne Magasinet*. A lot of very pleasant time was spent in Scandinavia, here and there.

"At one time we stayed in an old wooden mansion, built in 1901, on the edge of an inlet of the Baltic. There the men stayed up half the night talking to Goran Bengtson, the Swedish culture-vulture who had just come back from staying with Philip K. Dick in California. Goran had one short-coming: he drank only Calvados. Calvados gives you terrible hangovers. In the mornings, we'd strip off, run along a little wooden pier, and dive into the Baltic. It was *freezing!* You'd die if you stayed in it for five minutes. But it did cure hangovers."

And so back to 1965 and *Loncon II*, where Brian was Guest of Honour that year, with Harry (and pies) in attendance. He won a Nebula for 'The Saliva Tree' that year, and already had a Hugo for *Hothouse*. Harry's own reputation was already climbing fast, having completed *Bill The Galactic Hero* and other novels, and he would shortly turn in his brilliant, impassioned *Make Room! Make Room!* Together they would go on to edit over fifty anthologies – Harry says that while their writing styles are completely different, they share identical tastes in reading.

As for their convention double-act, Brian and Harry kept it running; in 1966 at *Yarcon*, in 1969 at the *Galactic Fair*, at *Chessmancon*, and so on to modern times. But in 1971 the Brum Group was formed, and soon afterwards Harry and Brian were invited to be Joint Presidents. And that's where the story *really* starts!

Cartoon by Jim Barker, from *With Stars In My Eyes*.

Photograph by Norman Shorrock

Iain Banks Bibliography

Compiled by Tony Berry

As Iain M. Banks

Novels:

Consider Phlebas	Macmillan, 1987
The Player of Games	Macmillan, 1988
Use of Weapons	Orbit, 1990
Against a Dark Background	Orbit, 1993
Feersum Endjinn	Orbit, 1994
Excession	Orbit, 1996
Inversions	Orbit, 1998
Look to Windward	Orbit, 2000
The Algebraist	Orbit, 2004
Matter	Orbit, 2008

Short Stories:

The State of the Art	Macmillan, 1989
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As Iain Banks

Novels:

The Wasp Factory	Macmillan, 1984
Walking on Glass	Macmillan, 1985
The Bridge	Macmillan, 1986
Espedair Street	Macmillan, 1987
Canal Dreams	Macmillan, 1989
The Crow Road	Scribners, 1992
Complicity	Little Brown, 1993
Whit	Little Brown, 1995
A Song of Stone	Abacus, 1997
The Business	Little Brown, 1999
Dead Air	Little Brown, 2002
The Steep Approach to Garbadale	Little Brown, 2007
Transition	Little Brown, 2009

Non-fiction:

Raw Spirit: In Search of the Perfect Dram	Century, 2003
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Programme

David Hicks

So you've been to Novacon before... so you'll understand the phrase "subject to change" when you see it. Please check your *Read Me* for latest details of the programme.

Friday

19.00 Opening Ceremony

In which we welcome everybody, introduce – as if that was necessary - our excellent Guest Of Honour and open a celebration of 40 (forty!) Novacons. Plus a reminder of the wholesome and fulfilling experience to be had from *volunteering to help* us run the convention.

19.30 Genre Pile Up

In 1971, when Novacon began, there was science fiction and that was that. Since then we've had Fantasy, Dark Fantasy, *Paranormal Romance*, Cyber Punk, Steam Punk, Inner Space, and the occasional manifesto. Is there a single thing that can be called "science fiction" any more? What, in 2010, is our common literature? Or are we now celebrating our different tastes in a very broad church?

21.00 Book Launch Party

Join us in celebrating the launch of Iain M Banks' new book *Surface Detail*. There will be drinks and snacks, an opportunity to catch up with old friends and get your freshly-purchased copy of the novel signed by the author.

22.30 Friday Night With Steve Green

Jonathan Ross is history! Come and see how a real chat show host does it. A late night exchange of wit, banter, badinage and – if you're really lucky – one of the guests might thump him.

Saturday

10.00 With A Bang Or A Whimper

Science Fiction is full of dramatic confrontations between the lethal hazards of the universe and human resourcefulness. How might we *actually* cope? It turns out several fans' day job is emergency planning and we'll be comparing their experience of preparing for real disasters with SF writers' insatiable appetite for doom.

11.30 Book Auction

Once you've purchased pristine hardcover copies of our Guests' latest, Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will offer an assortment of books you've always wanted, never knew you needed and don't even remember bidding for.

13.00 Professor Carolin Crawford: Sounds Of The Universe

Birmingham Town and Symphony Halls recently held a big celebration of "The Sounds of Space" including Carolin's (who is a professor of astronomy from Cambridge University) presentation on the secret sounds of stars, galaxies and the big bang itself.

14.30 Guest of Honour: Iain M Banks – "This One Might Be Trouble."

War is hell and the reverse is true too in *Surface Detail*, which heralds the much anticipated return of The Culture. Iain's spoken a lot about this already so if you have a question about whisky or want to know if we've given him a room with a balcony, that'll be fine too. (Book Room will be closed for this item)

16.00 The Magnificent Six

Our department of made up statistics informs us that since 1971 exactly 1,743 different people have attended a Novacon. However six people, and *only* six have attended every single one. Did they ever expect to see forty successive Novacons? What's changed? What *hasn't*?

17.30 Special Guest: Brian Aldiss

The Honorary President of the Birmingham SF Group (along with Harry Harrison) has been associated with Novacon since its earliest days. A gifted and eclectic author, critic and poet who has for the first time this year had an exhibition of his artwork, too.

19.00 "40" Significant Objects in SF and Fandom

Following Radio 4's series "100 significant objects that changed the world" we discuss (real or perhaps virtual) objects that have changed the world science fiction fans have lived in since 1971, from JANET and information technology to the Guinness draft flow system. First person to mention the iPod dies horribly.

20.30 Geoff Ryman: Before Sound No-one Could Hear You Scream

A cultured student of esoterica, Geoff presents a selection of unusual silent fantasy and SF films from as early as 1914 when – before the advent of sound – films from Germany or Russia about the Moon or Mars could have as big an impact on global audiences as *Avatar* today.

22.00 Our 40th Birthday Party including a Serious Scientific Talk

How old were you when Novacon One happened? Old enough to vote, join the army or drink? Thought so. In between the revelry we will recreate – thanks to James Bacon – one of Novacon's famous institutions: the Serious Scientific Talk as written by the late, great Bob Shaw.

Sunday

10.30 Professor Ian Stewart: What Would An Alien Look Like?

Continuing Novacon's tradition of quality science programming: a second item from the "Sounds of Space" in Birmingham: our former Guest of Honour discusses the conditions necessary for extraterrestrial life.

12.00 Art Auction

One day some of this stuff will be taken by your grandchildren to an episode of *Antiques Roadshow*. Invest in their future now by buying some of the marvellous art that's been on display over the weekend. Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will be banging the gavel.

14.00 The Hard Stuff

From the “Golden” Age to Larry Niven (winner of the Hugo 1971 for RingWorld) there’s been a steel core at the centre of SF dedicatedly faithful to the laws of physics, a literature lauded by Greg Benford for faith to proven science, albeit sometimes at the cutting edge of theory. Is this the ‘real’ SF or is something more fanciful required?

15.30 40 Best SF Books since 1971

The votes will have been counted and we’ll have the conventions opinion on the Best 40 Science Fiction Books published since 1971. A ‘lively’ discussion will ensue.

17.00 Awards Ceremony

It’s not called the ‘closing’ ceremony because Novacon *never* closes. 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.

19.30 Beer Tasting and Dinner

It’s curry this year. Does that go with beer? Oh. Entry tickets required, available at the Registration Desk throughout the weekend. Or, the beer tasting only with badge, or in exchange for three bottles of interesting beer.

Novacon Memories

I was still very new to the field when I was honoured to be GOH at Novacon, all those years ago. I was knocked out to be invited to such a prestigious con. Once there, I, and my wife too, were made wonderfully welcome. And the rest is a blur of good craic, good beer and everybody laughing at the jokes in my GoH speech. What more could you ask? I still have the pen-and-ink portrait from the con book cover hanging in my hall, a memento of a treasured time.

Stephen Baxter

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 and 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 and B *or* Sections A and 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 and 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.

Please Read The Instructions Before Answering The Questions

Section A Questions (Medium)

- 1/ Lord D'Arcy and Master Sean are characters in whose stories?
a/ ADF b/ RG c/ KR d/ GS e/ BP
- 2/ "Lest Darkness Fall" is a novel based on what?
a/ Alien invasion b/ Plague c/ Telepathy d/ Time travel
e/ Vampirism
- 3/ Who was the "Maid of Mars" (Novel)?
a/ Mycia b/ Pluvia c/ Thora d/ Thuvia e/ Vai
- 4/ In "The Time Machine" (Film 1960) with what did the Time Traveller return to the future?
a/ Books b/ Lights c/ Medicines d/ Tools e/ Weapons
- 5/ Name the "Island in the Sea of Time" (Novel).
a/ Ceylon b/ Cuba c/ Nantucket d/ Tasmania e/ Wight
- 6/ In Shelley's novel (1818) who was Frankenstein?
a/ Assistant b/ Heroine c/ Monster d/ Scientist e/ Valet
- 7/ In which decade was the term "Robot" coined?
a/ 1900s b/ 1910s c/ 1920s d/ 1930s e/ 1940s
- 8/ Who is the heroine of "Metropolis" (Film 1926/7)?
a/ Alice b/ Jane c/ Juliette d/ Maria e/ Sylvia
- 9/ What planet was being attacked in "This Island Earth" (Film 1955)?
a/ Barsoom b/ Earth c/ Metaluna d/ Ultra e/ Venus

- 10/ Who played “Barbarella” (Film 1968)?
a/ BE b/ ET c/ JF d/ JM e/ MM
- 11/ Who are the Hugo Awards named after?
a/ HE b/ HG c/ HH d/ JB e/ JC
- 12/ Who wrote the “parallel world” novel “What Mad Universe”?
a/ EB b/ FB c/ HH d/ IA e/ JB
- 13/ In the USA it’s called “Out of the Deeps”, in Britain the novel’s called what?
a/ C b/ DOTT c/ MC d/ SC e/ TKW
- 14/ In “Earth Abides” (Novel) what becomes a religious symbol?
a/ Computer b/ ICBM c/ Hammer d/ Noose e/ Sword
- 15/ Who was Chesley Bonestell?
a/ Artist b/ Author c/ Critic d/ Editor e/ Publisher
- 16/ In S M Stirlings novels where do the Draka originate?
a/ Australia b/ India c/ Japan d/ South Africa e/ South America
- 17/ Daniel Leary and Adele Mundy are characters in whose RCN series?
a/ IB b/ DD c/ EF d/ JR e/ RT

Section B Questions (Easy)

- 18/ In “War of the Worlds” (Wells) how many legs has a Martian fighting machine?
a/ 2 b/ 3 c/ 4 d/ 6 e/ 8

- 19/ Who wrote "The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy"?
a/ BA b/ DA c/ HH d/ HP e/ VV
- 20/ What is the robots name in "Forbidden Planet" (Film 1955)?
a/ Al b/ Id c/ Marvin d/ Robby e/ XL5
- 21/ Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future, first appeared in which comic?
a/ Beano b/ Dandy c/ Eagle d/ Falcon e/ Swift
- 22/ What is the computers name in "2001 – A Space Odyssey" (Film 1968)?
a/ HAL9000 b/ IBX c/ James d/ K9 e/ Satan
- 23/ Farenheit 451 is said to be what?
a/ German rocketship b/ Paper ignition point c/ Perfume
d/ Research facility e/ Space station
- 24/ Who coined the term "Robot"?
a/ Aldiss b/ Asimov c/ Capek d/ Simak e/ Wells
- 25/ In "The First Men in the Moon" (Wells, novel) what is the gravity insulator called?
a/ Cavorite b/ Gravite c/ Lunite d/ Selenite e/ Wellsite
- 26/ What was ANALOG's previous title?
a/ ASF b/ F & SF c/ G d/ WS e/ WT
- 27/ Ray Harryhausen is best known for his what?
a/ Fanzines b/ Novelizations c/ Paintings d/ Plays
e/ Special effects
- 28/ In "Day of the Triffids" (Novel 1951) what afflicted mankind?
a/ Blindness b/ Deafness c/ I.Q. loss d/ Madness
c/ Sterility

- 29/ A survivor in a dead mans jacket starts reunifying the USA with old letters in which novel?
a/ Communications Hitch b/ Delivery c/ Mailman d/ Man of Letters e/ The Postman
- 30/ How many names has God?
a/ One million b/ Nine million c/ One billion d/ Nine billion e/ One trillion
- 31/ Who wrote "The Time Machine" (Novel)?
a/ BS b/ HGW c/ IA d/ JSB c/ JV
- 32/ What colour is the Clangers Moon?
a/ Red b/ Orange c/ Yellow d/ Green e/ Blue
- 33/ Who is credited with inventing the original "Three Laws of Robotics"?
a/ ACC b/ IA c/ HH d/ KL e/ RUR

Section C Questions (Harder)

- 18/ In which film did John Cabal appear?
a/ A b/ FMITM c/ T d/ TIM e/ TTC
- 19/ In HBP's Paratime stories into how many levels are the Timelines divided?
a/ 3 b/ 5 c/ 7 d/ 9 e/ 11
- 20/ Who were the authors of "The Enchanted Duplicator"?
a/ BA & JV b/ BS & WW c/ IA & HH d/ JB & MM e/ WO & PA
- 21/ "The Time Machine" (Novel) was based on which earlier work?
a/ ASHOFT b/ TCA c/ TTS d/ TTT e/ TWV

- 22/ In “The Tripods Trilogy” (Christopher, novels) what happens to the “chosen” girls?
a/ Eaten b/ Educated c/ Enslaved d/ Married e/ Preserved
- 23/ What major battle features in “Bring the Jubilee” (Novel)?
a/ Gettysburg b/ Hastings c/ Tours d/ Ulundi e/ Waterloo
- 24/ Tunnel Through the Deeps is to ATTH as No Blade of Grass is to what?
a/ CATS b/ SW c/ TBOF d/ TDOG e/ WWC
- 25/ Which SF artist designed the Skylab 1 patch?
a/ CF b/ DH c/ FF d/ KF e/ KT
- 26/ The comic in which Dan Dare originally appeared was the idea of whom?
a/ Astronomer b/ Explorer c/ Policeman d/ Politician e/ Vicar
- 27/ Where did the first ever SF convention take place?
a/ Boston b/ Leeds c/ London d/ New Orleans e/ Paris
- 28/ Jules Verne’s last published SF story was first published in?
a/ 1870s b/ 1900s c/ 1930s d/ 1960s e/ 1990s
- 29/ In which film was the “countdown” first used?
a/ DM b/ FIM c/ LVDLL d/ TFMITM e/ WWC
- 30/ Which SF author began by drawing the Jeff Hawke comic strip?
a/ BA b/ HH c/ JW d/ KB e/ TT
- 31/ “A Subway Named (?) by A J Deutsch (Short story)?
a/ Adam b/ Desire c/ Metropolis d/ Mobius e/ Wrongly

32/ In "The Day of the Triffids" (Novel) what is the name of the hero's lover?

a/ Barbara b/ Catherine c/ Cicely d/ Josella e/ Penny

33/ In "Sliding Doors" (Film) what/where are the sliding doors?

a/ Bookshop b/ Eurostar c/ Hospital d/ Lift
e/ Underground

Novacon Memories

It's not even a blink of an eye in cosmic terms, but forty years is definitely a significant block of human time. When Novacon 1 kicked off, the Apollo moon programme was still going, Harold 'white heat of technology' Wilson had just been deposed as Prime Minister by Edward 'laughing sailor' Heath, the Blue Streak project (and Britain's last real chance to establish a proper space programme) hadn't yet been cancelled, Jimi Hendrix's 'Voodoo Child' was No. 1 in the record charts, and I was a spotty teenager who read far too much SF and had had my mind comprehensively blown by 2001: A Space Odyssey, but had yet to encounter the outer limits of fandom. Forty years on, we may lack monoliths, moonbases and HAL, and MP3 downloads and X-Factor karaoke have trivialised the Hit Parade, but we have instead robots examining every corner of the Solar System and trundling over the surface of Mars and the weird communal intelligence of the internet, and I have been enriched by various close encounters with the SF community, including the honour of being GOH at Novacon 28 in, oh-my-gosh-where-has-the-time-gone, 1998. What a strange ride into the future it's been. Here's to another forty years!

All best for the con.

Paul McAuley

2010 Nova Awards

Steve Green

Back in 1973, a young Brum Group member called Gillon Field suggested Novacon create an award for the 'best' fanzine of the preceding twelve months (a distinction which would later be defined as "most pleasurable"). Initially, the winner was chosen by a panel of 'wise old fans' (as if), but voting was soon opened up to all qualifying Novacon members and 1981 saw the creation of new categories for 'best' fanzine writer and artist.

Sadly, Gillon is no longer with us to see how her idea imbedded itself into the heart of Novacon. The Nova Awards have carried on pretty much unchanged for the past three decades (the most recent tweak taking place after Novacon 32, when I expanded eligibility to include electronic and Irish fanzines).

Those of you present at Novacon 39 may recall I chaired a debate on the future of the Novas, just before stepping down as their administrator. Unfortunately, Martin Tudor, both a predecessor and my successor in that role, was forced by personal circumstances to resign in September, and no prizes for guessing who got the call. To quote Michael Corleone: "Just when I thought I was out... they pull me back in."

Whatever happens this weekend, Sunday's will be the final Nova Award ceremony under the current rules. Whether the awards continue at all is largely dependent upon this year's turn out. You'll find a ballot form in your membership pack. If you're eligible to vote, please do so.

The following fanzines are eligible for the 2010 awards (please note this is not a complete list and is only intended as an *aide memoir*): *An Fleghes Hager-Na Yu Canjeo* #1-2, Doug Bell; *Ansible* #267-278, Dave Langford; *Banana Wings* #40-42, Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; *The Banksoniain* #15-16, David Haddock; *Brum Group News* #458-459, Rog Peyton for the Birmingham Science Fiction Group; *Concaternation* v.20 #5 (online only), Jonathan Cowie; *Data Dump* #144-145, Steve Sneyd; *The Doppelganger Broadsheet* #3 (e-zine), Colin Langeveld; *The Fortnightly Fix* #1-16, Steve Green; *Griff* #1-2, Ian Milstead; *Inca* #5, Rob Jackson; *iShoes* #3, Yvonne Rowse; *Journey Planet* #5, James Bacon & Claire Brialey & Chris Garcia; *Motorway Dreamer* #7, John Nielsen Hall; *Relapse* #16-17, Peter Weston; *The Death of Fanzines Part Two*, Lilian Edwards.

[Further details, including URLs for online fanzines, are available at the Novacon website.]

Novacon Memories

I'd love to give you a clear and literate account of my time as GoH at Novacon but ransacking what passes for my memory these days simply produces vague images: a bar, beer, more beer, the bar again, being interviewed and wondering if I was saying anything that actually made sense, more beer, a bar.

All the usual suspects were there; although we were mostly older and perhaps rounder than in the film of the same name. I'm pretty sure there was North African food, v good North African food... And friends, and a late night argument about what Science Fiction is. But that's it.

Jon Courtenay Grimwood

The 21st Century Science Fiction Fan

James Bacon

The last ten years I really got to know UK science fiction fandom, beforehand I was a visitor, or fans visited Ireland, but this century I turned up, paid attention, even got involved.

I wondered if this century has really been effected by the onset of the internet or not. Sure we had the web in 1999. We didn't have Livejournal and Facebook and Fails, in quite the same measure. Has it been a good century so far for science fiction, as good as the opening of the 20th Century?

I know book shopping has changed, once if I was in Birmingham, it was round to Andromeda, and in London up to The Fantasy Centre, no more now, ABE has done its work well, I have benefitted by buying many an affordable book, but the cost once realised is disappointing. I miss those shops, places where one could learn and listen and get recommendations that were meaningful. The twenty first century, has been a scythe to book shops.

It's been a century that's been full of success and failure on the fannish front. I recall with pleasure enjoying myself at 2Kon, a convention where myself and a bunch of mates were enjoying ourselves no end but where some Science Fiction Fans were unhappy about the programme. This convention was not to everyone's liking, no not at all. In actual fact many people reckoned it was very poor indeed. Hard, that's one of the good things about fandom, we are all a bit different, and oddly different things do appeal to us. It's interesting that in a similar yet less critical way, many people had a fabulous time at Odyssey, I for one did, again with some of the same friends, and some were unhappy about other aspects but also the programme. Bookends to the National Convention.

It's the decade that I started going to Novacons. I suppose I felt really uncomfortable at my first Novacon, I didn't feel that I knew enough people, and I felt that there was a different focus to this con

than I had expected. It took me time to understand that Novacon, like many cons, is uniquely individual. The Birmingham fan run convention is different to many others, the needs and requirements of those fans specific to what they have come to see as their convention. I got that, and once passed that, I became a happy regular. I often wondered if it could be better, and of course, many felt that the hotel choice was sub-optimal. I liked the hotel in Walsall, is it now boarded up, and mostly even though it is a short period of time, enjoyed staying there, not that a move elsewhere was not welcomed. Yet it is that West Midlands – it is what it is – approach that I quite like now, it's not for changing or messing about with, it's a Novacon. Take it or leave it, and I will gladly take it. I was happy to accept many of the choices that were made, and especially those regarding Novacon Guests of Honour.

- 2000 NOVACON 30 Christopher Priest; Rog Peyton (special guest); David A. Hardy (guest artist)
- 2001 NOVACON 31 Gwyneth Jones
- 2002 NOVACON 32 Ian McDonald
- 2003 NOVACON 33 Jon Courtenay Grimwood
- 2004 NOVACON 34 Ian Watson
- 2005 NOVACON 35 Alastair Reynolds 216
- 2006 NOVACON 36 Ken MacLeod 212
- 2007 NOVACON 37 Charles Stross 208
- 2008 NOVACON 38 Ian R MacLeod; Vernon Brown (fan guest)
- 2009 NOVACON 39 Justina Robson
- 2010 NOVACON 40 Iain M Banks; Brian W Aldiss (special guest)

As I look over the 21st Century Novacons I can see that there is something nicely contemporary about the guest list. As I scan it, I feel this is my generation of Writer, there are a few exceptions. Many of them were not on the radar before I was a fan, I can remember Cassini Division coming out for instance, I was at a book event in Dublin for that, and so I am grateful that Novacon committees have been smart about their choices, it is a handsome list, and quite incredible. I have read something by all of the

professionals and consider some of them to have produced 'favourite' works of SF, on my bookshelves. It's a great selection.

Of course like Eastercons, another meat in this decade long sandwich, was the 2005 Worldcon. A fantastic coming together of fans, many of Novacon's stalwarts were involved, at a variety of levels and this was a high point of this decade for me so far. It was not just a success, it was terrific fun being involved, and for my part bringing SF to young people and where the Hugos are presented, so perhaps its time for another list, or perhaps not.

You know, winning a Hugo does not necessarily a great author makes. Good by all means, lucky for sure, but I always remind myself that a Novacon favourite and brilliant writer, Harry Harrison has never won a Hugo, and that of course is indicative of something else about lists, they don't always capture the full view. In this decade when fans have demanded more transparency to many things, it is good that fan writing still allows one to have a different view, a different opinion. Whether it be Banana Wings, Vector, Foundation, there has been no shortage of writing this decade. Sure efanazines by the incredible Bill Burns has been a real boon, in my mind, but fan writing, is it good. Undoubtedly, as Claire Brialey, multi Nova winner, was voted the best fan writer in the world, after Fred Pohl in 2010, I do frequently feel we have some great writers in our midst, from Niall Harrison to Mark Plummer, there has been no shortage of good reading this century. A reflection on the Nova awards for a moment shows that although there may be some who feel that Fanzines are not as popular, I feel that there is still a great level of quality there, and that the choices have all been pretty sound. By Best Zine, best Writer and Best Artist.

2000: Plokta; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason

2001: Head; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks

2002: Plokta; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks

2003: Zoo Nation; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason

2004: Zoo Nation; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason

2005: Banana Wings; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott

2006: Banana Wings; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason

2007: Prolapse; Mark Plummer; Alison Scott

2008: Prolapse; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott

2009: Banana Wings; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason

Banana Wings, Prolapse by Peter Weston, Zoo Nation by Pete Young and Head, are amongst my favourite fanzines, while Plokta just before my time really, is deserving. The Best Fan Writer is interesting and makes me smile. Yvonne and Alison are both awesome writers, I wish they would pen more in fanzines, and mark Plummer frequently has me in stitches of laughter, and is equally as good as the writer who is obviously the best fan writer of the decade – Claire Brialey. No one can disagree that Dave Hicks, Alison Scott and especially Sue Mason have been at the easel, electric or otherwise with style.

The best part of fan writing is doing things that take your fancy, and so my Favourite Harry Harrison books not from this modern and at times quite horrible real dystopik are as follows:

1. The Stainless Steel Rat
2. Make Room! Make Room!
3. A Transatlantic Tunnel, Hurrah!
4. The QE2 is missing
5. 50 in 50 (short story collection)

I may have mentioned there is no accounting for taste. I should also mention, although don't mention it to the great Mr Harrison that I also truly loved the 2000AD adaption of his stories. They have been reprinted this summer by Rebellion and I mentioned this, about twenty years ago, and he didn't say much, but even then, I felt I may have faux pas'd as they say. That's OK, though, as I reckon dozens of authors would adore such an adaption, but Mr Harrison, you know, he has standards. For that I love his writing. He is a great writer, and many younger could learn about his standards and also kindness to young annoying fans who like an adaption of his work.

And as a twenty first century fan, that's one of the things that Novacon has always had, an appreciation for science fictional history. Not in some sort of modern popular cultural studies way, but underlying. People know what's good and great, they have an appreciation of authors of good science fiction and instil a recognition that there are great authors. The full Novacon Guest line up is pretty incredible, and it's not like those great authors are forgotten, or fade away, as far as Novacon regulars are concerned, or so I feel. Maybe it's because I am a crazy Irishman. Speaking of which, as a twentieth first century science fiction fan, I was always really impressed with how Novacon had a special place in its shared communal history for Irish Authors.

James White, the first Novacon GOH and a guest on two occasions, Bob Shaw also a guest on two occasions, joining a very elite and select but incredibly worthy group, and Ian McDonald also a guest. I have always felt, or came to feel a special connection between Ireland and Novacon, perhaps it's the close proximity of the National Irish Convention, which is similarly named after the month that it occurs in, Octocon, or that Northern Irish fans from Tommy Ferguson to Sinead Larkin could be found in the bar. And so, I shall remind you all, of a simple list of Irish Science Fictional works, undoubtedly my personal favourites.

1. The Silent Stars go By – James White
2. The Ragged Astronauts – Bob Shaw
3. Desolation Rd. – Ian McDonald
4. Hospital Station and Mind Changer – James White
5. Brasyl – Ian McDonald

I am afraid only one of those books is from this modern century, and that is surely remiss of me, as I reminisce about these last ten years, but as I said, an appreciation of other things from the past, comes with a Novacon.

I wondered what new literary faces and writings have come to the fore this century. Well without doubt a number of names spring to mind, with quite some alacrity, but then I went and had a look at the Clarke Award (Not Clarkes, by the way, that's just incorrect) and by anyones measure, it may have been China Mieville's. I am currently reading *Kraken* and it's interesting. It reminds me of another author who likes to write about Cults and Urban Legends but is deeper and more serious.

The Clarke Award.

- 2000: *Distraction* by Bruce Sterling
- 2001: *Perdido Street Station* by China Miéville
- 2002: *Bold As Love* by Gwyneth Jones
- 2003: *The Separation* by Christopher Priest
- 2004: *Quicksilver* by Neal Stephenson
- 2005: *Iron Council* by China Miéville
- 2006: *Air* by Geoff Ryman
- 2007: *Nova Swing* by M. John Harrison
- 2008: *Black Man* by Richard Morgan
- 2009: *Song of Time* by Ian R. MacLeod
- 2010: *The City and the City* by China Miéville

Undoubtedly *The City and the City* has been a favourite book, of this new century and of that list, it has resulted in hours and hours of conversation, debate and writing, and that's just for me.

There have been two genres in my mind which have been quite strong this century, it feels like the rest of the world discovered what we already knew, that Steam punk is quite fun and good, whether it be Michael Moorcock with Oswald Basatble or Bryan Talbot with *Nemesis* and Luther Arkwright, we have had this genre and enjoyed for some time. Another genre, or are these sub genres, I am unsure, but another genre is the Alternate History. Here I have redacted the list (Political term for censor, I think) of winners, both

long and short form, to just include personal favourites, which happen to also perhaps have a Novacon connection. Some apart from my attending Novacon have no other connection, but I am sure you will see these titles and see that Novacon members and committee are not alone in their appreciation of modern twenty first century writers.

Long Form

- 2001 J. N. Stroyar, *The Children's War*
- 2004 Philip Roth, *The Plot Against America*
- 2005 Ian R. MacLeod, *The Summer Isles*
- 2006 Charles Stross, *The Family Trade, The Hidden Family, and The Clan Corporate*
- 2007 Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*

Short Form

- 2001 Ken MacLeod, "The Human Front"
- 2004 Warren Ellis, *The Ministry of Space*
- 2009 Alastair Reynolds, "The Fixation"

I end with a particular favourite moment, from this twenty first century and also from a Novacon, on this matter of alternate history. I was chatting only briefly with Rog Peyton, a pillar of the Novacon community and I mentioned that my favourite Philip K. Dick novel is *The Man in the High Castle*, and he concurred. I was surprised but pleased, but just before I blurted this out, he gravely warned me in a terribly serious sort of way, that were many about, who would vehemently disagree with me, although he did not, and I took that as a good thing, but I should not mention it too loudly, for fear of rebuke and rebuttal, I took heed of this warning and kept this dark secret to myself, for not everything twenty first century is online and in your face.

RNIB Talking Books

Tony Berry

Another anniversary happens this year: the 25th anniversary of Novacon deciding to start collecting for the RNIB Talking Books service. It was Novacon 16 in 1986 (or was it N15 in 1985? My memory is not what it was. Twenty-five years which ever way you count it). Anyway, it was one of the cons at the De Vere hotel in Coventry; I was on the committee of the first and chaired the second.

Conventions have a history of running raffles for worthy causes, and a charity would be chosen each year. A friend of my mother was involved with the RNIB and I reckoned that it would be fitting for Novacon, as a literary convention, to try and get a science fiction novel recorded as an audiobook. I got hold of the lists of every book in the RNIB library, noted that there were very few science fiction/fantasy titles available, and suggested we put this right. If we came up with the full cost of recording a book, then about £300, surely we could nominate which book it was?

The raffle was duly run at the con, and the money raised, together with a donation from the convention, was enough to pay for the recording of a book. In the end I chose a fantasy title, the recently-published *Mythago Wood*, by the late great Robert Holdstock, and the RNIB agreed to record it. When it was done they sent me the reader's copy with annotations, which I think was then auctioned off.

Since then, Novacon has always collected for Talking Books. Other conventions have done the same, Becon Publications handed over a lot from sales of among others the Drabble books, Eastercons ran raffles, special donations from the profits of conventions like Albacon swelled the coffers, and

Roger Robinson became involved with the RNIB itself! Over the years Fandom has donated more than £12,000 to this charity - and I know this figure is about to increase significantly - so that we can continue to try and get more fantasy and science fiction books recorded.

Novacon Memories

A long time ago when I was young and easy, under the apple bough, I was invited to be the GoH at Novacon 18. 1988 it was, the year Mehran Karim Nasseri got trapped without a passport in De Gaulle Airport and was unable to get out until 2006. Trying to find the hotel I vaguely recall driving round and round the Bullring, wondering why Birmingham indulged in Spanish blood sports. Once I found the hotel I remember having a great time, going on lots of panels, and giving a speech that made Rog Peyton laugh. That's about as much as I can recall, not having kept the Programme Book, which would have stirred the dust a bit. I know I enjoyed myself, drank a lot of beer, smoked a lot of smokes (those were the days), but heck I would have had trouble remembering stuff the following Monday morning, let alone 22 years later. Thanks for asking.

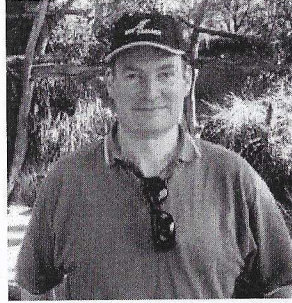
Garry Kilworth

GUFF Tweets

James Shields

I didn't tweet as much as I hoped as internet access was more sporadic than I'd have liked, so I tended to write longer blog posts.

However, if I had used Twitter more, here are some of the tweets I might have written...



2010-08-21 13:32

Arrived in Dublin Airport. Checked in. Time for lunch. All ready to Go Under for Fan Funds!

2010-08-21 21:04

Heathrow is big. Got train to T4. Met James Bacon. Fish and chips for tea. Train back to T3. Checking in all the way to Wellington.

2010-08-23 05:41

OMG! About to board my 4th flight in 36 hours. Should have had a break in Sydney. Stupid me!

2010-08-23 14:50

Arrived in sunny Wellington. Met by Norman holding card with name on. What luxury! Went to get cash... can I remember my PIN? Argh!

2010-08-24 16:16

Exploring Wellington. Nice day, so walked in. Good to get legs working again. Most amazing museum, Te Papa. Met Irish couple there.

2010-08-25 22:29

Explored railway station, cable car and botanic garden. Then met fans for dinner. Arrange to meet UK fan following morning.

2010-08-26 18:04

Scaled Mt Victoria in the rain. Got lift back to town and went to Observatory. Back in hotel, nice afternoon, so took taxi back to summit.

2010-08-27 22:10

Checked into hotel for weekend. Chatted with other early arrivers. Opening ceremony lively. Good panel on Fan Funds.

2010-08-28 18:03

Fun Dr Who panel. Interesting global warming discussion. Bought Sean Williams book in auction. Taken for really nice dinner.

2010-08-28 23:44

Took second trip to observatory to see if telescope open. Sadly not, but managed to see Southern Cross. Cool.

2010-08-29 18:31

Religion panel goes well. Interesting con running panel. Present award at NZ award. Sing along closing ceremony. Didn't expect that!

2010-08-29 23:01

Norman Cates has been cajoled by Sean Williams into running a Worldcon in NZ in 2020. Hurrah! I'm their webmaster. What have I done?

2010-08-30 22:12

Excellent trip to Weta Cave. Got to pose with amazing ray guns. Somehow managed to miss pub crawl. Pick up strays with nowhere to stay.

2010-08-31 02:33

Website for NZ in 2020 up and running! Huge planning session after kicked out of function rooms. Now for chips.

2010-08-31 22:29

Morning looking for print shop. Took NZ 2020 presupports in airport. Flew to Melbourne. Check into hotel. Out to Sue Ann & Trev's for BBQ.

2010-09-01 15:44

After morning stuffing member packs, end up in loading dock and help set up art show and move boxes to Dealer room. Time for lunch.

2010-09-02 13:22

Helping set up stuff, thinking I might pop in to catch end of opening ceremony when grabbed and told to go on stage next to GoHs!

2010-09-02 17:12

Somehow I have ended up on a mythology panel. Slightly out of my depth next to pro writers, but hopefully make intelligent contribution.

2010-09-02 22:07

Volunteer to help man photocopier for an hour or so... four hours later we have finally wrestled the revised programme into shape.

2010-09-03 14:14

Great panel on fan funds but hard to get a word in across the Americans! Carefully explain how it's all James Bacon's fault.

2010-09-03 21:36

After raising loads of money at Fan Fund auction, got to present a Didmar at Aussie award ceremony. Now to James B's awesome London party!

2010-09-04 16:03

LEGO Dalek Building session with kids today. Great fun with 20 kids crowded around table hunting for parts, but must plan adult one better.

2010-09-04 23:53

UK and Irish party awesome! James Bacon throws a fantastic party. Amazing feat of diplomacy to pull it off as hotel nearly thwarted it.

2010-09-05 15:29

Was on panel about humour writing. Felt out of place next to actual humour writers. Stole a lot of Robert Rankin's material.

2010-09-05 18:21

Adult LEGO Dalek session was manic, but great fun. Built nearly 70 Daleks. All went smoothly. Now must change quick for Hugos.

2010-09-05 22:46

Got to present Hugo! Awesome. Shame James B didn't win it. Hugo losers party awesome. They even let some of the winners in.

2010-09-06 22:33

Quietish last day of con. Helped in ops, and to tear down dealer room. Blagged loads of stuff for fan fund auctions. Dragged to Chinatown.

2010-09-07 18:34

Vegged out today, which is good after busy conventions. Went to post office. Seem to have started Dublin 2014 Eurocon Bit. That was careless.

2010-09-08 20:49

Took tram into Melbourne for wander around. Did a circle on the circle tram. Saw the Tim Burton exhibition at ACMI. Got hat for James B.

2010-09-09 10:54

Early flight to Adelaide. Met by Damien. Into city meet people for breakfast. Shopping at market then off to Flourelle peninsula.

2010-09-09 20:12

Wine tasting in McLaren Vale. All lovely, though can't really tell difference. Saw kangaroos in field next to B&B, which was awesome.

2010-09-10 21:42

Looking for Penguins on Granite Island. Unfortunately they were all out to sea. More wine tasting. Back to Damien & Juliette's for beer.

2010-09-11 17:27

Train out to Adelaide railway museum. Really interesting, especially the multi-gauge tracks. Popped into aviation museum next door too.

2010-09-11 23:53

Great party at Damien and Juliette's. Lovely food and beer, and nice people to talk to. Tram back to Roman's and must sleep as early start.

2010-09-12 22:12

Why did I book such an early flight to Melbourne? Went to LEGO meeting. Met lots of cool people. Dinner with Melbourne fans in evening.

2010-09-13 16:12

Not snowboarding today because didn't book in time. Browsed Lego shops with Sue Ann instead. Takeaway Chinese for dinner. Yum.

2010-09-14

Went to Melbourne Zoo in morning. Saw hind legs of Wombat. Kangaroos closed. Koalas sleeping. Pizza for dinner. Boarding flight to Perth.

2010-09-15 21:09

After bit of a late morning, got bus into Perth. Found sci-fi bookshop. Museum closed. Bought hat. Roo burger for dinner at Dave & Karen's.

2010-09-16 19:11

Early start and got ferry to Rottneest Island. Hired bike and saw quakkas. Met Dave in Freemantle for beer. Meeting friend for dinner.

2010-09-17 23:55

Dave off today, so went to King's park. Very pretty. Saw Shaun Tan mural in library. Party in Dave & Karen's. Presupport Perth Worldcon!

2010-09-18 19:33

Go to picnic at University to celebrate Bilbo Baggin's birthday. Not sure how old he is now. More wine and beer tasting. Back to airport.

2010-09-19 15:13

Back at Sue Ann and Trevor's. Excellent fannish brunch - with LEGO trains. Get to airport. Luggage too heavy. Remove books and try again.

2010-09-20 11:06

Arrive back in Dublin airport. Even managed to get some sleep on the planes. Airbus 380 is awesome. Now for a more verbose trip report...

Dear Sirs

This is written in anticipation of the Genre Pile Up Panel on the Friday evening of Novacon 40. Whilst the proliferation of genres and sub-genres (and frankly one of two very, very sub sub-genres), has many midwives, Novacon GoH are among the guilty parties in this process. Harry Harrison in all innocence probably helped kickstart what we know today as Steampunk, with "A Transatlantic Tunnel, Hurrah!" published in the UK in 1972, only a couple of years after Novacon started out. The NEL Master SF Series paperback edition of 1976 (Edited by Harry and Brain Aldiss) was available in the Shepshed Public Library and the following year my 11 year old self having enjoyed "The Stainless Steel Rat" in 2000 AD was busily going through that

library, having read all the SF and Fantasy in the School Library and immediately latched on to this book. I found it a little strange, no rocket ships or robots, but airships and mechanical computers, very different to the rest of the SF fare I had enjoyed to date, but despite these rather obvious (to me at the time) drawbacks immensely enjoyable. The back cover of the NEL editions gave some clues to what it was "*In a Twentieth Century parallel world, the renegade George Washington has been decently and quietly liquidated and Britain's greatest colony, America, is to be connected to the Mother of Parliaments by the strongest of all umbilical cords – a Transatlantic Tunnel.*" I was familiar with the concept of parallel worlds from the Classic Trek 'mirror' episode, and Star Trek was SF, it had not only had rocket ships and robots but ray guns as well, definitive of it being SF to my 11 year old self. This was clearly the first book I had ever read which I could identify as being within the SF subgenre of Alternative History, a subgenre I enjoy immensely and could label it as such at the time, and which expanded my horizons immensely making me the SF Fan than I am. That is not the end however, only a beginning. The first purposely written (and declared as such) steampunk novel is generally acknowledged to be Gibson and Stirling's. The Difference Engine was published in 1990 and I bought and read it as did everyone interested in this new 'cyberpunk' thing and thought immediately "Hang on this is like that Transatlantic Tunnel book by Harry Harrison". I had another name for a sub-genre now, "Steampunk". The moral of the tale is do not dismiss any genre or sub-genre, Sturgeon's law applies to them as much as it does to the parent genre of SF, even if it is getting a little wearing to have 'punk' added to everything (clockpunk, diesilpunk, magepunk) time will sort out all literary works into just two piles 'good' and 'bad'. Guess which will be the larger? All genres and subgenres will be in both.

Peter Harrow

Never Say Never...

Committee Profiles

Dave Hicks

The Large Hadron Collider has already produced some startling results. It's been kept secret but supervelocity particles have created time windows and we can reveal one of the documents discovered on what appeared to be some sort of e-reader built into a beermat

“Novacon 80: Committee Profiles.

“Well, ha ha, I know we all said *never again* back in '45 after the iceberg hit the hotel and they supplied the wrong brand of alcohol-free lager, but *somebody's* got to keep Novacon going so here we are...

“**Vernon Brown** is your chairman again this year, ably keeping order at meetings with his serious approach and the taser in his bionic arm. Vernon's been around since the beginning of ~~time~~ Novacons when the event was *always* in Birmingham, so we're happy to return now reconstruction has been completed after The Event. Vernon has strong opinions on what is and is not SF and was delighted when trilogies exceeding 1,000 pages were proscribed by the National Government in the twenties.

“**Cat Coast** serves ably as committee secretary for the forty third time. She says it's helped her to finally master Microsoft Word 2003 and was delighted when last year the man she's lived with since 1988 finally acknowledged *and completed* an action point.

“**Richard Standage** and **Helena Bowles** ably produced this year’s publications. We all think having them hand delivered throughout the UK added a special touch, made possible only by all nineteen of their granddaughters being in the Jetcopter Brownies. Remember all Novacon publications are on self-recycling paper so do make sure your programme book isn’t left near anything flammable in three months’ time.

“**Alice Lawson** is ably looking after your hard-earned money again this year. Of course, when last year we seceded from Pan-Europe and adopted our own new currency, it made life harder. Now everyone has *real* Groats in their wallets it’s playing merry hell with the gopher reward tokens.

“**Steve Lawson** is ably handling hotel and memberships. Since Steve finally succeeded in becoming registrations secretary to every convention in Britain I think we can all agree the process has been smooth and free from incident now he’s got us all on his database forever. I, for one, have come to love having a barcode tattooed on the back of my neck.

“**Dave Hicks** has ably put together an entertaining programme this year, utilising sixty seven past Guests of Honour and promising an improved raffle. I think we’re all looking forward to the discussion of what we’re *finally* going to do about the Nova Awards

“Sadly anti-senescence medication doesn’t work for everyone. We’re thrilled therefore to be able to welcome back as our able hotel liaison, the **living brain of Tony Berry**. Tony normally lives in a jar in Steve Lawson’s shed these days – what with Alice refusing to allow ‘that thing’ into the house. If you bump into Tony over the weekend, a likely event as he can’t control that trolley very well, cheer him up by telling him he’s lost weight.”

The History of Novacon

1971 Novacon, Guest of Honour: James White

Imperial Centre Birmingham (Attendance: 144)

Chair: Vernon Brown

Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dugate.

1972 Novacon 2, Doreen Rogers

Imperial Centre (144)

Chair: Pauline Dugate

Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds.

1973 Novacon 3, Ken Bulmer

Imperial Centre (146)

Chair: Hazel Reynolds

Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman.

1974 Novacon 4, Ken Slater

Imperial Centre Birmingham (211)

Chair: Dr Jack Cohen

Pauline Dugate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds.

1975 Novacon 5, Dan Morgan

Royal Angus (272)

Chair: Rog Peyton

Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dugate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton.

1976 Novacon 6, David Kyle

Royal Angus (317)

Chair: Stan Eling

Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton.

1977 Novacon 7, John Brunner

Royal Angus (278)

Chairm: Stan Eling

Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford.

1978 Novacon 8, Anne McCaffrey

Holiday Inn Birmingham (309)

Chairman: Laurence Miller

Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright.

1979 Novacon 9, Christopher Priest

Royal Angus (290)

Chair: Rog Peyton

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

1980 Novacon 10, Brian W Aldiss

Royal Angus (495)

Chair: Rog Peyton

Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton.

1981 Novacon 11, Bob Shaw (362)

Royal Angus

Chair : Paul Oldroyd

Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert.

1982 Novacon 12, Harry Harrison

Royal Angus (373)

Chair: Rog Peyton

Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert.

1983 Novacon 13, Lisa Tuttle

Royal Angus (339)

Chair: Phil Probert

Chris Donaldson, Eunice Pearson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes.

1984 Novacon 14, Robert Holdstock

Grand Birmingham (333)

Chair: Steve Green

Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent.

1985 Novacon 15, James White & Dave Langford

De Vere Coventry (340)

Chair: Phil Probert

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

1986 Novacon 16, E C Tubb & Chris Evans

De Vere Coventry (257)

Chair: Tony Berry

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

1987 Novacon 17, Iain M Banks

Royal Angus (315)

Chair: Bernie Evans

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

1988 Novacon 18, Garry Kilworth

Royal Angus (336)

Chair: Tony Berry

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

1989 Novacon 19, Geoff Ryman

Excelsior Solihull (426)

Chair: Martin Tudor

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

1990 Novacon 20, Dr Jack Cohen

Excelsior (330)

Chair: Bernie Evans

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

1991 Novacon 21, Colin Greenland

Forte Post House Solihull (200)

Chair: Nick Mills

David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy.

1992 Novacon 22, Storm Constantine

Royal Angus (300)

Chair: Helena Bowles

Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage.

1993 Novacon 23, Stephen Baxter

Royal Angus (350)

Chair: Carol Morton

Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage.

1994 Novacon 24, Graham Joyce

Royal Angus (214)

Chair: Richard Standage

Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.

1995 Novacon 25, Brian W Aldiss; Harry Harrison; Bob Shaw; Special guest Iain M Banks

Chamberlain Birmingham (338)

Chair: Tony Morton

Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.

1996 Novacon 26, David Gemmell

Ibis Birmingham (281)

Chair: Carol Morton

Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.

1997 Novacon 27, Peter F Hamilton

Abbey Great Malvern (277)

Chair: Martin Tudor

Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Mike Siddall.

1998 Novacon 28, Paul J McAuley

Britannia Birmingham (265)

Chair: Martin Tudor

Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy.

1999 Novacon 29, Ian Stewart

Britannia (239)

Chair: Carol Morton

Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.

2000 Novacon 30, Christopher Priest; Special Guest Rog Peyton; Guest Artist David A Hardy

Britannia (224)

Chair: Tony Berry

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

2001 Novacon 31, Gwyneth Jones

Quality Walsall (219)

Chair: Tony Berry

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

2002 Novacon 32, Ian McDonald

Quality (252)

Chair: Martin Tudor

Cat Coast, David Cooper, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice &
Steve Lawson.

2003 Novacon 33, Jon Courtenay Grimwood

Quality (203)

Chair: Martin Tudor

Cat Coast, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson.

2004 Novacon 34, Ian Watson

Quality (227)

Chair: Martin Tudor

Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Steve & Ann Green, Dave Hicks, Alice &
Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse.

2005 Novacon 35, Alastair Reynolds

Quality (216)

Chair: Tony Berry

Vicky Cook, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse,
Helena Bowles, Cat Coast.

2006 Novacon 36, Ken MacLeod

Quality (245)

Chair: Tony Berry

Committee: Dave Hicks, Steve Lawson, Alice Lawson, Helena
Bowles, Vicky Cook.

2007 Novacon 37, Charles Stross

Quality (227)

Chair: Steve Green

Vicky Cook, Steve Lawson, Ann Green, Alice Lawson, Kevin Clarke.

2008 Novacon 38, Ian R MacLeod

Quality (206)

Chair: Helena Bowles

Steve Lawson, Alice Lawson, Richard Standage, Tony Berry.

2009 Novacon 39, Justina Robson

Park Inn (210)

Chair: Alice Lawson

Steve Lawson, Dave Hicks, Cat Coast, Richard Standage, Helena Bowles, Tony Berry, Martin Tudor

Novacon Memories

My one abiding memory is from 1979. I had spoken jokingly but incautiously in the bar about Larry Niven's boring Guest of Honour speech, a few years earlier at an Eastercon. As Larry drawled inaudibly with his back to the audience, everyone there began to panic. We were torn between two familiar British motives: to be polite to a visitor from overseas, but to back off at high speed from a crashing bore. After some fidgeting, Brian Aldiss solved the problem (for himself) by simulating a nosebleed, and dashing noisily out of the con hall, kicking aside fans and chairs, with a handkerchief pressed to his nose. (Larry mumbled on unstoppably.)

The next day I went to the con hall at Novacon to give my own GoH speech. As I took my seat, I noticed that everyone in the first three rows was holding a handkerchief, at the ready.

Chris Priest

Members

As at 1st November 2010

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Iain M Banks | 33 Harpal Singh |
| 2 Brian Aldiss | 34 Dave Tompkins |
| 3 Harry Harrison | 35 Marcus Rowland |
| 4 Justina Robson | 36 Sue Jones |
| 5 Ian R MacLeod | 37 Linda Ternent |
| 6 Vernon Brown | 38 George Ternent |
| 7 Tony Berry | 39 Calvin Ternent |
| 8 Helena Bowles | 40 Roger Robinson |
| 9 Dave Hicks | 41 Chris Stocks |
| 10 Cat Coast | 42 Stephen Dunn |
| 11 Alice Lawson | 43 Thomas Recktenwald |
| 12 Steve Lawson | 44 Wilf James |
| 13 Richard Standage | 45 Neil Tomkinson |
| 14 Martin Tudor | 46 Alison Tomkinson |
| 15 Pat Brown | 47 Dave Langford |
| 16 Tim Stannard | 48 Barbara-Jane |
| 17 Dave Cox | 49 Markus Thierstein |
| 18 Chris Morgan | 50 David Cluett |
| 19 Pauline Morgan | 51 Joyce Cluett |
| 20 Margaret Austin | 52 Julian Headlong |
| 21 Martin Easterbrook | 53 Greg Pickersgill |
| 22 Dave Hardy | 54 Catherine Pickersgill |
| 23 Chris O'Shea | 55 Tony Rogers |
| 24 Campbell McLeay | 56 James Odell |
| 25 Lisa Konrad | 57 Caroline Loveridge |
| 26 Neil Summerfield | 58 Gavin Long |
| 27 Chris Bell | 59 Tobes Valois |
| 28 ½r | 60 Adrian Snowdon |
| 29 Michael Davidson | 61 Niall Gordon |
| 30 Christine Davidson | 62 Harry Payne |
| 31 Claire Brialey | 63 Jodie Payne |
| 32 Mark Plummer | 64 Hal Payne |

65 Omega
66 Peter Mabey
67 Susie Haynes
68 Brian Ameringen
69 Meriol Ameringen
70 Caroline Mullan
71 Gerry Webb
72 Mali Perera
73 Penny Hicks
74 David Thomas
75 Margaret Croad
76 Jamie Scott
77 Lennart Uhlin
78 Gwen Funnell
79 Peter Wareham
80 Carol Morton
81 Tony Morton
82 Paul Dormer
83 Ron Gemmell
84 John Medany
85 Rita Medany
86 Anne Woodford
87 Alan Woodford
88 Steve Rogerson
89 Mike Scott
90 Flick
91 Jim Walker
92 Eddie Cochrane
93 John Harvey
94 Eve Harvey
95 Steve Davies
96 Giulia deCesare
97 Laura Wheatly
98 Michael Meara
99 Pat Meara
100 Tony Ellis

101 Emma Pagano
102 Julia Daly
103 Douglas Spencer
104 David Redd
105 David Haddock
106 Geoffrey Winterman
107 Dave Lally
108 Martin Hoare
109 Al Johnston
110 Tim Maguire
111 Clarrie O'Callaghan
112 Steve Green
113 Rog Peyton
114 Robert Smith
115 Vincent Docherty
116 Angela Rosin
117 Sue Edwards
118 David Carlile
119 Michael Bernardi
120 Doug Bell
121 Christina Lake
122 Ann Looker
123 Susan Peak
124 Michael Abbott
125 Anne Wilson
126 Justin Williams
127 Austin Benson
128 Caroline Wilson
129 Christopher Priest
130 Leigh Kennedy
131 Del Cotter
132 Simon Dearn
133 Kate Solomon
134 Malcolm Davies
135 Nick Mills
136 Ken MacLeod

- 137 Tim Kirk
138 Bridget Wilkinson
139 Peter Wilkinson
140 E.D. Buckley
141 Yvonne Rowse
142 Ian Sorensen
143 Sally Rowse
144 Ina Shorrocks
145 Gavin Shorrocks
146 Nigel Furlong
147 Sabine Furlong
148 Karen Furlong
149 Simon Furlong
150 John Bilton
151 Randy Byers
152 John Stewart
153 Barbara Stewart
154 Jon Courtenay Grimwood
155 Stephen Baxter
156 Geoff Ryman
157 Jack Cohen
158 Graham Joyce
159 Ian Brown
160 Helen Cross
161 Garry Kilworth
162 Annette Kilworth
163 Sarah Brannan
164 Ben Beck
165 Neil Meharry
166 Carolanne Austin
167 Richard Crawshaw
168 Chris Crawshaw
169 Peter F Hamilton
170 Ian Stewart
171 Lisa Tuttle
172 John Wilson
173 Serena Culfeather
174 John Peters
175 Ian Roll
176 Rob Jackson
177 JFW Richards
178 M J Smith
179 Peter Harrow
180 Howard Rosenblum
181 June Rosenblum
182 Anders Hedenlund
183 Noel Collyer
184 Diane Young
185 Diane Anderson
186 John Anderson
187 Richard Stephenson
188 Paul Brown
189 B M van Bergen
190 Pat Curzon
191 Lynne Dunn
192 Phil Nye
193 Sue Nye
194 Robert Aristotelous
195 Chris Evans
196 Celyn Armstrong
197 Martin Smart
198 Melica Smith
199 Mark Meenan
200 John Dowd
201 Fran Dowd
202 Gary Wilkinson
203 Jim Worrall
204 Chris Murphy
205 Mark Slater
206 Christopher Brooks
207 Meike
208 Jim DeLiscard

209 Charles Stross
210 Feòrag NicBhrìde
211 Lilian Edwards
212 Terry Martin
213 Simon Bradshaw
214 Siân Martin
215 Dave Holmes
216 Dave Nichols
217 Mish Varney
218 Mark Hill
219 Tony Perkins
220 E Mein
221 Michelle Broadribb
222 Tim Broadribb
223 Ian Warner
224 Eddie Stachelski
225 D.M. Sherwood
226 Julia Gosling
227 Janet Jenkins
228 Joseph Andrew Jenkins
229 Peter Cooper
230 Colette Reap
231 Alan Bellingham
232 Danesh Standage-Bowles
233 Magdalen Standage-Bowles
234 Heloise Tudor
235 John Shapter

236 June Shapter
237 Tessa Harrington
238 Steve Jones
239 David Row
240 Judith Lewis
241 Melenie Davis
242 Michael O'Toole
243 Jacob O'Toole
244 Edwin Rydberg
245 Mark Young
246 Pete Smith
247 June Strachan
248 James Bacon
249 James Shields
250 Rachael Livermore
251 Alison Soskice
252 Phil Nanson
253 Kari Maund
254 Mark Bukumunhe
255 Angela Goodfellow
256 Emma J King
257 Jonathan Ely
258 Dave Hutchinson
259 Bogna Hutchinson
260 Carol Naylor
261 Theresa Derwin
262 Daniel Ribot

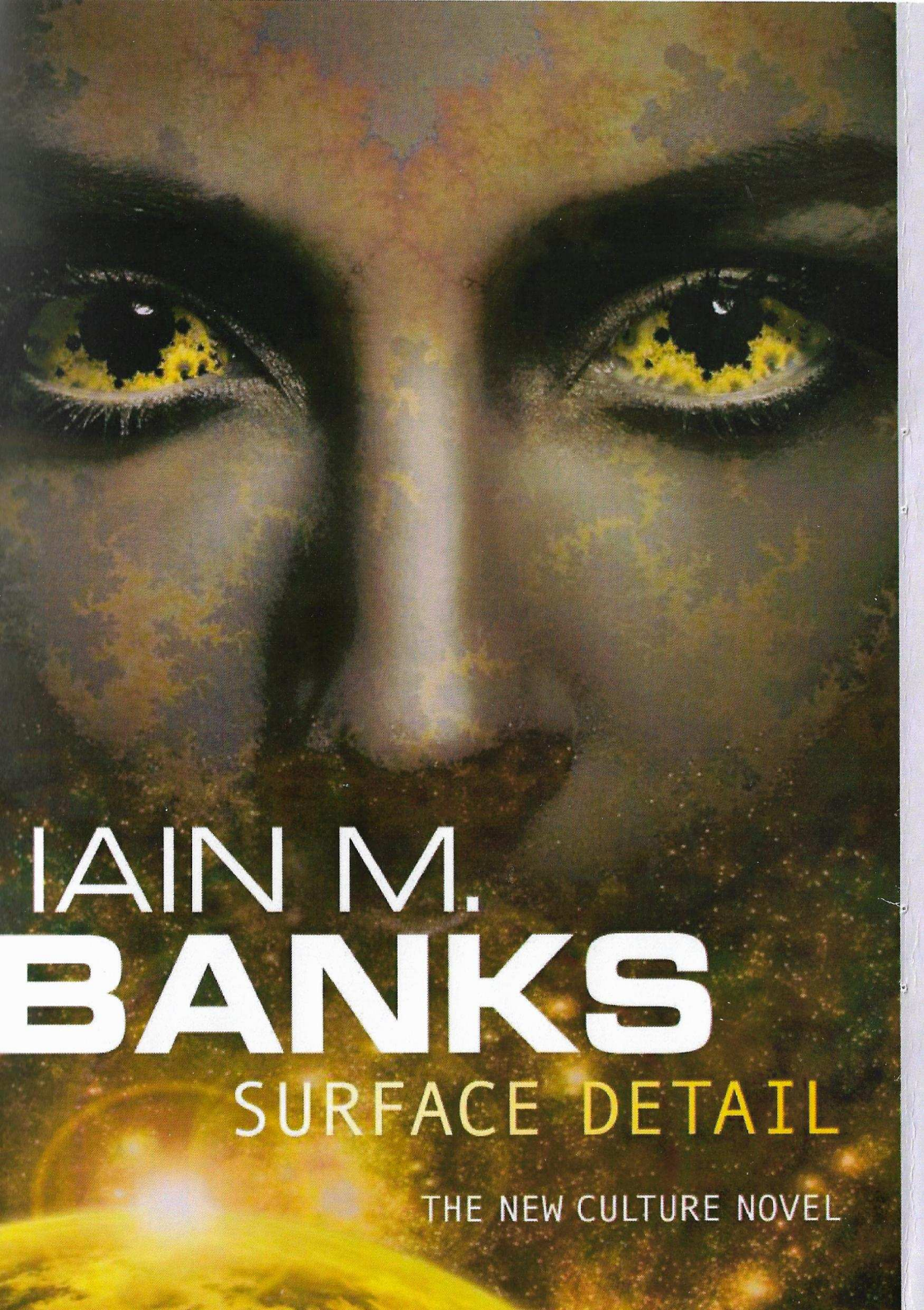
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