

# RUBICON

## JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the latest in a series of Rubicon's famous residential courses. We hope all delegates will enjoy their stay with us, and will successfully complete the course.

COURSE: RUBICON 4 - HOW TO ENJOY YOURSELF OVER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

DATE: 25 - 28 AUGUST 1989

VENUE: CHEQUERS HOTEL, NEWBURY  
Please use either main entrance or car park entrance at all times. A map is attached to these joining instructions for your convenience should you have trouble finding the hotel. The fact that you only get these joining instructions once you've found the hotel is immaterial.

TIMES: Sessions will start at 10.00 a.m. each morning, and run until midnight. Any delegates who do not attend all sessions will not receive their certificate of achievement.

HOUSEKEEPING: That's the job of the hotel - but please, don't antagonise the staff by leaving your baked beans in the bed.

EQUIPMENT: It is important that you have a calculator with you at all times, but if it is one of those annoying musical ones, you will be forbidden from using it. Spot equipment checks will be carried out throughout the weekend.

TRAINING METHODS:  
Rubicon believes in the Socratic, participative style of training, and therefore you will be required to participate extensively throughout the course. Practical exercises and case studies will be provided to accurately reflect as little of the real world as possible.

ASSESSMENT: As part of our assessment procedure, we will be providing a progress test which is mandatory for all delegates. To aid you in the successful completion of the course, we have provided at the back of these joining instructions the questions you will be asked. Since we have provided these questions to all delegates before the test, we will be requiring exceptionally good answers.

COURSE OUTLINE:  
Attached is an outline of the course. Since Rubicon believes in a participative style of training, however, this outline is only an indication of the topics to be covered. If delegates are interested in other areas, or find those mentioned in the outline of little interest, we are more than happy to amend both timings and subject matter. However, always remember that no-one likes a smart-ass. If you come up with some bright suggestion, you are likely to end up doing the organisation!

## RUBICON 4

### COURSE OUTLINE

- FRIDAY
- 5.00 pm Special 'Meet the Delegates' get together in the bar (highly innovative bit of programming this).
  - 10.00 pm Astronomical Programme item when we all rush outside to view 'live', 'as it happens', Voyager II at its leaves the solar system - bring your own 200 inch reflector telescope and never mind about the speed of light.
  - 10.05 pm Return to bar to view the 'delegates' closest approach to the bottom of the glass.
- SATURDAY
- 11.00 am Opening Ceremony
  - 2.00 pm Fannish Faces - answer the questions, spot the people and win a major prize (!)
  - 5.00 pm Tony Berry's truly infamous film quiz
  - 10.00 pm Turkey readings  
With special Bernard Matthews guest appearance (volunteer required to be bootiful)
- SUNDAY
- 11.00 am Fan Olympics  
You didn't think you'd get away without the obligatory Sunday morning exercise did you?
  - 2.00 pm Speaker's Corner  
Anyone who has a grievance can get 5 minutes' airspace; or else we will discuss "Do we think Britain is fit to host another Worldcon ever again?"
  - 5.00 pm Test Your Knowledge  
At this weekend's many sessions (for details ask in the bar) your awareness of the universe will have been truly expanded. Now a selection of Rubicon's best brains will attempt to prove this.
  - 10.00 pm Twister  
It's late, you've eaten and drunk too much so it's time for a physical game.
- MONDAY
- 11.00 am The Rubicon Radio Review  
If you were here last year then you might know what to expect, if not turn up and find out.
  - 12.00 noon Course debrief  
Were your course objectives attained? Will you attend another Rubicon open seminar?

FIRST YEAR PROGRESS TEST

Candidates must attempt those questions chosen by the adjudicator

1. HISTORY. Describe the history of UK fandom from its origins to the present day, concentrating especially, but not exclusively, on its social, political, economic, religious and philosophical impact on Europe, Asia, America and Africa. Be brief, concise and specific.
2. MEDICINE. You are provided with a razor blade, a piece of gauze and a bottle of Scotch. Remove your appendix. Do not suture your work until it has been inspected. You have 15 minutes.
3. PUBLIC SPEAKING. 2,500 riot-crazed Trekkies are storming the only bar in the hotel in search of Coca-Cola. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Greek or Latin.
4. BIOLOGY. Create life.
5. MUSIC. Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with flute and drum. You will find a piano under your seat.
6. SOCIOLOGY. Estimate the sociological problems which might accompany the end of the world. Construct an experiment to test your theory.
7. ENGINEERING. The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed in a box on your desk. In 2 minutes a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel appropriate. Be prepared to justify your decision.
8. POLITICAL SCIENCE. There is a grey telephone on the desk behind you. Start World War III. Report at length on its socio-political effects - if any.
9. PHILOSOPHY. Sketch the development of human thought, estimate its significance. Compare with the development of any other kind of thought.
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE. Define the Universe. Describe in detail. Give three examples.

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COURSE DIRECTORS

This year's conference can be blamed on:  
Keith and Krystyna Oborn - Hotel Liaison  
John and Eve Harvey - Programme

Grateful thanks go to seminar tutor Tony Berry

## EATING & DRINKING IN THE CHEQUERS

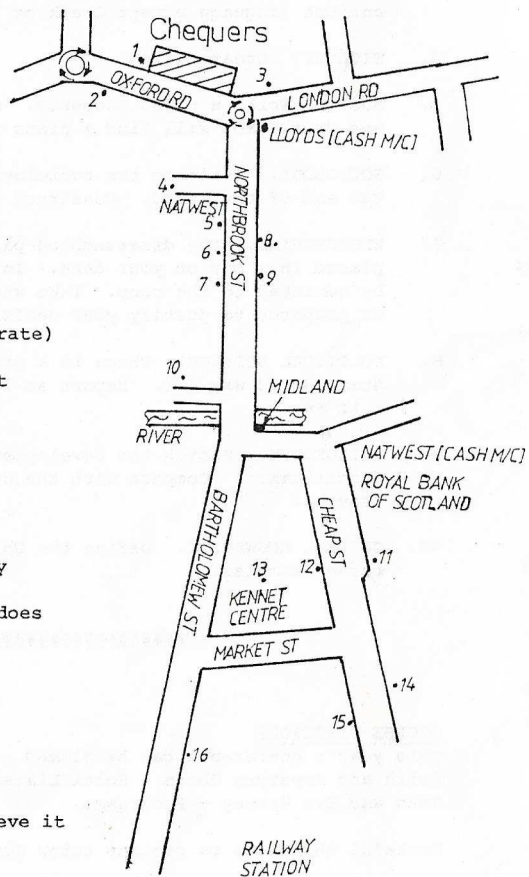
There are two bars. The small bar is between the main hall (Carnarvon Room) and the games room (Craven Room). The main bar is on your right as you come in from the street. The main bar is where you get your bar meals between 12.30 and 2.15 in the afternoon. For those of you too lazy to leave the hotel in the evenings, bar meals are also available between 6 - 9.30 p.m. If you're still hungry, sandwiches will be available after 9.30 p.m. through the night porter.

Breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m. and is well worth trying.

Of course for foodies there is always the Chequers Hotel restaurant. The A La Cart menu is not cheap but, judging by previous experience, the set menu is well worth a try.

## WHERE ELSE TO EAT IN NEWBURY (plus places to get the money from)

1. THE BACON ARMS HOTEL:  
A carvery (Lunchtime Mon - Fri)  
EUGENE'S BAR: Charcoal Grill
2. VALLE D'ORO: Italian restaurant
3. Two new Indian Restaurants (hurray)  
THE LAST VICEROY and CURRY GARDEN  
(The former appears 10% cheaper than the latter.)
4. BRUNO'S: Bar/restaurant, quaint but expensive, open 10:30am - 11:00pm.
5. MACDONALDS: (well you might be desperate)
6. THE GLASS GARDEN if you liked it last year hard luck, it doesn't exist any more.
7. THE TASTY PLATE: Cafe
8. PIZZALAND
9. THE OVEN DOOR: Coffee shop and bakery
10. SPURLES: By the river, coffee shop, does some meals.
11. THE HATCHET: Steak House pub.
12. KEBAB TAKE-AWAY
13. DEEP PAN PIZZA
14. LAUREL PEKINE CUISINE: Chinese, believe it or not and pretty good too.
15. FISH AND CHIP SHOP
16. AUGUST MOON: Chinese  
Open Sunday until 11:30/Midnight



There are also a couple of cafes in the Kennet Centre and pubs that serve food all over the place.