

# **Progress Report 4**

### **Chairman's Bit**

It's habitual for the chairman to witter on about blind panic and only two months to go when doing the chairman's bit in PR4, and I'm no exception. I can't imagine why I ever thought that running the Eastercon would be a good idea. Nevertheless, although we're all at the headless chicken stage at the moment, we're sure it will be a good con. Sadly, we can't have the fireworks we'd hoped for; LDDC decided that letting Dermot loose near Canary Wharf was just too dangerous. We hope you'll enjoy the other things we're doing instead. More about this is contained under 'programme'.

We're pleased to announce that Jeff Noon will be coming to the convention. This is your chance to bring along your pristine copies of the Ringpull edition of *Vurt* for him to sign, and also to buy his new book, out for Confabulation.

When you opened the envelope containing this PR, you should have found two leaflets about Docklands. Don't throw them away! They contain maps and other useful information which will help you get to the con and have more fun once you're there.

We say this elsewhere, but if you haven't sent back your hotel booking form yet, do it now! (Even if you're not staying in the hotel, it would be useful if you could send it back so that we know.)

All that remains is to say that I look forward to seeing you all on Good Friday; I'll be the one wearing moose-related clothes with a worried look on my face.

# Masquerade

The Confabulation masquerade will be on the Sunday night (we know this is unusual but we-thought it would make a change). We're very pleased to announce that it will be run by Anne Page. If you wish to enter, you don't absolutely have to tell us before the con, but it would be useful. Please write to Anne (at the Confabulation address) and enclose an SAE for more details. There will be special prizes for Best Costume based on the works of our guests, Best Moose, and Best Costume that didn't exist before Confabulation. In order to encourage a good display, the masquerade is open to all costumes, whether or not they've been shown before. We're especially keen to see costumes that have won prizes at smaller conventions but that Eastercon-goers won't have seen. If

you're entering one costume but would like to bring another, or if you've always wanted to appear in a masquerade but can't sew, we may be able to match you up. Please let us know. Now's your chance to dig out those wings, Kate.

# Awards

The following awards will be made at Confabulation: Doc Weir, Ken McIntyre, BSFA. Now is the time to start thinking about who you feel really deserves to win and making sure that they get it. For the Ken McIntyre award, don't forget that we need both the original artwork and a copy of whatever publication the artwork appeared in.

### **Roger Robinson**

Confabulation's fan guest of honour is Roger Robinson, who has for many years been one of Britain's most active SF fans. He has given an enormous amount to British fandom over the years, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to recognise his contribution.

Roger first became active in fandom with the Beccon series of conventions in the early eighties. He was on the committee of Beccons 81, 83 and 85, which were some of the most enjoyable conventions of their day. He then wisely ducked out of the 1987 Beccon Eastercon and set up a small press called Beccon Publications which continues to thrive to this day.

Beccon Publications has published a number of influential works. Most famous are perhaps the three 'Drabble Project' books, each consisting of one hundred short stories of one hundred words each. Other notable works include *Who's Hugh*, the definitive work on SF pseudonyms, *There Are Never Enough Mushrooms*, the infamous Beccon cookbook, and most of the filk collections published in Britain.

The 'Drabble Project' books were sold in aid of the RNIB's talking books for the blind, which leads us on to Roger's role in raising money for good causes. As well as the RNIB, for whom he has raised thousands of pounds, he is on the committees of Fans Across the World and the Friends of Foundation. He was one of the prime movers in the successful campaign to save the Science Fiction Foundation when it outstayed its welcome at the University of East London. He is frequently found running the Book Auction or behind a table in the Dealers' Room, selling books for the Foundation.

British Science Fiction Association members will have frequently cursed Roger's ingenuity, as he regularly sets the competition in Matrix, the BSFA newsletter. He is also a habitual convention quizmaster and quiz participant, and occasional punster. But enough about his faults.

For obvious reasons, his role as a Secret Master of Fandom is less widely known. We will now blow his cover and reveal all. Back in 1986, there seemed to be no likely bids for the 1988 Eastercon, as the 1987 Worldcon was absorbing most of the conrunning resources available. Roger managed to persuade two different groups to put together bids, and to pool their efforts into a joint bid, and so bears sole responsibility for Follycon, the 1988 Eastercon. The committee exacted a dreadful revenge - they appointed him Chairman of the convention and ensured he was later awarded the Doc Weir Award for services to fandom.

Despite all of this fannish activity, Roger mysteriously manages to spend 23 hours a day in the convention bar. You'll probably find him there, so buy him a drink and he'll tell you the stories that were too weird, scurrilous and unlikely to be printed here.



The evolution of the Moose: Stage 1 - The Moosoeba

### Weapons Policy

Confabulation is being held in the centre of London, and as such we have to be careful about weapons and how they are used. Although we appreciate that you all act responsibly with the weapons you own, we also have to ensure that other convention members won't do anything daft with *your* weapons. We're therefore having the following weapons policy.

Please do not bring any real weapons to that chocolate Hugo, either. Confabulation.

Please do not bring any realistic replica weapons to Confabulation unless you need them as part of a costume during the masquerade. You may not wear them at other times.

Please do not bring any projectile weapons, no matter how harmless. This means you, Bazooka.

Water is a projectile. Photons aren't.

Unrealistic replica weapons may be allowed

### **Hotel Forms**

If you haven't already sent back your hotel booking/volunteer form, you should have received a second one with this PR. Please send it back as soon as possible if you want a room. The hotel have said that they will begin to sell off unreserved rooms from six weeks before the convention. This means that any bookings received after about 6th March run the risk of not getting a room in the main hotel. We have an overflow hotel, which is very close to the main hotel as the crow flies. Unfortunately there is a river in the way.

Even if you don't want a hotel room, please send back the volunteer form. The more people who help out at the convention, the easier it is for everyone. at the discretion of the committee. They are unlikely to be allowed if they are capable of doing damage. If there is a disagreement about whether the weapon is capable of causing damage, we reserve the right to test it on you.

The committee or DCM, reserve the right to confiscate anything, for any reason, at any time. So it might not be a good idea to bring that chocolate Hugo, either.



## **Chocolate Moose**

Chop up 4 oz good dark chocolate and 4 oz small white marshmallows. Put on top of double boiler with 1 oz butter: stir over hot water until mixture has melted; remove from heat. Add 2 lightly-beaten elves egg yolks; return to heat: stir over hot water 3 minutes until mixture is smooth and thick. Allow to cool until slightly set. Beat 2 egg whites with a pinch of salt until soft peaks form, then fold through chocolate mixture. Refrigerate until set. Serve with rum cream; beat 3 egg yolks together with 1/4 cup sugar and a tablespoon of lemon juice until mixture is thick and light lemon in colour. Gradually add 2 tablespoons of rum, mix well. Thoroughly whip another elf half a pint of cream, and fold it into the rum mixture.

Serves 1.

### Parties

If you want to hold a large party at Confabulation and think that you will need function space or a suite to accomodate it, please contact Steve Davies at the usual Confab address or send email (confab@moose.demon.co.uk). We have been negotiating with the hotel over corkage rates and have agreed on a reasonable figure, again please contact us for details.

### **Thames Barrier**

Since the Thames Barrier figures prominently in Lois McMaster Bujold's *Brothers In Arms*, we are considering organising a trip out to see it. The barrier is only a short way down the river from the hotel and it is quite easy to get there. Are you interested? Please contact us so we can see how many people are likely to want to go.

## **Dealers' Room**

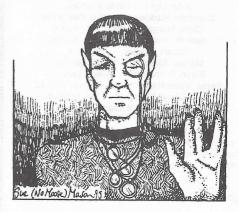
Our Dealers' Room will be fairly small. It will have about 50 tables of which 25-30 have already been booked. Please note that we have lowered the rate per table to £20 for the first table and £25 for subsequent ones. If you want to book a table (or if you have special requirements such as being next to a power point) write to Mark Plummer, care of the usual Confabulation address.

### **Calling All Artists**

Confabulation will be having an art show, which will be run by Marion Pritchard and Richard Winslade. As usual, the convention will have space for artists to display work and will run an art auction. The convention will take a cut of 10% on all art sold in the auction; if the con makes a profit this money will be given to charity. It's not absolutely critical to let us know in advance that you need space, but it would be very useful, and room in the art show will be limited.

### Films

Unfortunately, our arrangements for 16mm films at Confabulation are currently in doubt since our projectionists are now not going to be able 'to make the convention. We are still planning to show videos, but unless we can get some volunteers we won't be able to show film. Please contact us at the con address if you think you can help out.



Spock In Monocles

# **Book Auction**

Please let us know if you are bringing material to be auctioned. We will be having a book auction, and an overflow auction if necessary. We cannot guarantee to auction everything that is given to us. If you are bringing anything unusual or strange, it would be useful if you could let us know in advance. The convention will take a cut of 10% on everything that is sold in the auction; if the con makes a profit this money will be given to charity.

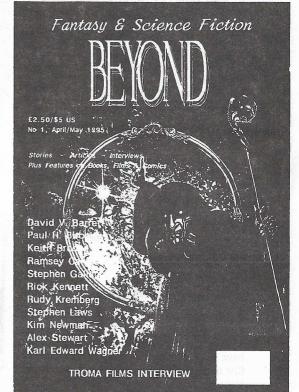
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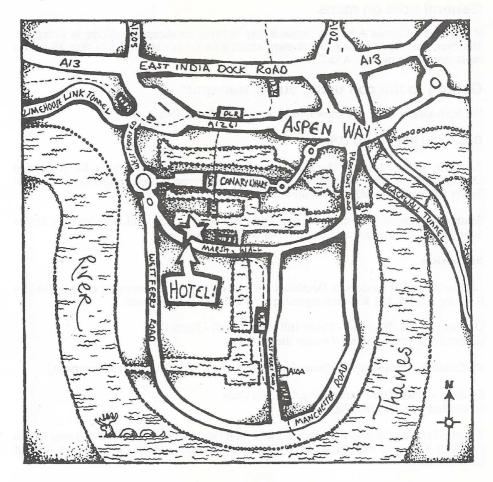
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Send the above (or a copy) to:

Beyond,

130, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, BB5 3DR, UK.

Map



# How To Get To Confabulation

Confabulation is taking place at the Britannia International Hotel, Marsh Wall, Isle of Dogs, London.

Telephone (0171) 712 0100

These details should be read in conjunction with the leaflets, which you should find in the envelope with the PR, and the map above, showing you where the hotel is.

### Important notice

At the time of writing, Docklands Light Railway were unable to confirm services over Easter 1995. There may be a buses only service for all or part of the Easter holiday. You can get up

to date info before the con by phoning 0171 918 4000

### General note on maps

If you have a London A to Z or similar it may be useful for shopping, tripping or eating out. However, the maps with this PR are more accurate for the Isle of Dogs area than all but the most recent road maps or A to Zs.

### Getting to the con using public transport.

We have assumed that you know how to use the London Underground.

#### Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

The DLR station closest to the hotel is South Quay. For those starting on BR or London Underground, primary connections are Bank underground, Tower Gateway DLR (near Tower Hill underground), and Stratford BR/underground.

South Quay station is on the same road as the con hotel: Marsh Wall. Turning right as you leave the station, the Britannia International is about 300yds west.

#### Bus services

London Transport services to Docklands are prefixed "D". Buses stopping close to the con hotel are D1, D8, D9. Key facts regarding stops and availability include:

D1 County Hall - Waterloo - Tower Hill - Marsh Wall - South Quay (Limited stop service. Mon-Fri except late evenings)

D8 Stratford - Canary Wharf - [extended to South Quay, Mon-Sat except late evenings]

D9 Bank - Tower Hill - Canary Wharf - South Quay (runs when trains not running on DLR)

To get off at the right stop you may need help from the driver or a map. The best stop for the con hotel is the first stop on Marsh Wall. Pay attention after passing the towering form of Canary Wharf.

The DLR is wheelchair accessible. When it's not running, a wheelchair accessible vehicle is available for the area served by DLR. For further information on this service, call 0171 918 4000, giving at least 2 hours notice of your intended journey.

#### By air

Heathrow, Gatwick, and Stansted airports have easy access to British Rail termini or direct to London Underground. Connections for DLR are noted above.

For London City airport, note that Silvertown and City Airport Station is closed, and will probably be so at Easter. There are probably buses to connect with DLR but we have been unable to find out details. The airport is only about 4 miles from the hotel, so you may want to take a taxi.

### By car

Getting to the Isle of Dogs is no more difficult than most driving in London. However, the final stages of getting to the hotel can be tricky. The map on the back of the Docklands leaflet shows all key routes, but does not show the detail of several rather complex junctions, flyovers and tunnels. One simplifying strategy is to follow signs to Isle of Dogs, then follow signs to Canary Wharf. Note that you cannot actually travel through Canary Wharf, though. At the west side of Canary Wharf is Westferry Circus. From here continue south (Westferry Rd), pass Herons Wharf then turn left onto Marsh Wall. You should soon see the Britannia International on the left. Parking is available at Westferry Circus; you will be able to drop stuff off at the hotel but will probably not be able to park there due to the small size of the hotel car park.

### Parking

So, you came by car and now you want somewhere to leave it while you enjoy yourself. There are 4 possible places to park around the hotel.

The hotel car park is very small and cramped. We don't advise relying on it. It's also very expensive.

Next to the hotel is an area of waste ground that is normally an NCP car park but it seems to sometimes be reserved for use by the Daily Mirror who have a building nearby. You might be able to use this if you only want to park for an hour or two while you sort yourself out.

About 200 yards up the road is Westferry Circus car park which is the main Canary Wharf car park. Since this will be pretty empty over Easter, we are currently negotiating with them for a discount rate. They will have two to three hundred spaces available over Easter, but we won't be able to use the carpark until after 1800 on Thursday. The car park is normally reserved for permit holders only, and the management proposes to invoice the con on the basis of how many cars park there each day. Their usual rate for Friday til Monday would be £52 per car however we are trying to get a special Easter rate of about £25 for the four days. We will probably have to run a system of vouchers, on sale from Registration or Ops, with the car park security people noting names and registration numbers of people parking there with a Confabulation sticker and not letting anyone in without one.

On-street parking is also available, but we can't take any responsibility for anything that might happen to your car.

### By bicycle

Docklands contains some excellent cycle routes, but the Isle of Dogs is bounded at the North by the Limehouse Link and A13, which are rather nasty. To avoid these, I recommend using the excellent map produced by the London Cycling Campaign, and being appropriately careful. The British Waterways Board has recently ruled that cycling is not permitted on the canal towpaths leading to the Limehouse basin. From the South, bicycles can be wheeled through the Greenwich tunnel.

### On moose

No! no! no! Oh all right then but I wouldn't recommend it. If you are sufficiently strong minded to do so then you won't be needing this guide.

#### **V()**|||||||()?) NEXT тне S T E

Evolution is the 1996 British National Science Fiction Convention to be held 5-8th April 1996 in the 5 star Badisson Edwardian hotelat Heathrow.

#### THE VENUE

The Radisson has excellent facilities, including an indoor swimming pool. Coaches run directly to Heathrow from all over the country, and it's 40 minutes from central London by tube. Room rates from £28 per person per night (£32 twin, £42 single).

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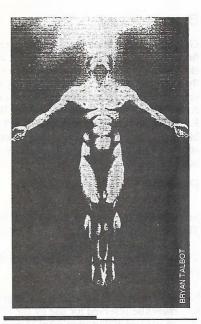
at a UK convention.

#### JACK COHEN

that could shape the future of science.

#### HOW TO JOIN

Membership is £20 attending, £12 supporting or child rate (between 5 and 14 on 5th April 1996 - children under 5 are free), rising to £24 and £14 after 18th April 1995. Presupporting members get a £1 discount and supporting members can convert to attending for the difference in memberships at any time. Mascots and beasts of all kinds - £5. To join, or



### BRYAN TALBOT

Author of Across Realtime, True Names and Artist and author of the alternative history A Fire Upon The Deep, his mix of space opera graphic novel Luther Arkwright, he is famous and hard SF explores the future evolution of for his victorian gothic art on Nemesis for man and machine in the fast approaching 2000AD. His most recent work is the Singularity...This will be his first appearance impressive and award-winning Tale of One Bad Rat from Dark Horse.

#### COLIN GREENLAND

Jack Cohen, scientist and fan, evolves alien Author of Take Back Plenty ,Harm's Way ecologies for countless writers; his new book and now Take Back Plenty, he is working on a explores simplexity and complicity, concepts graphic novel with Dave McKean set in a Venice at the end of the world...

> for more information, please send your name, address and details with your cheque (made payable to Evolution) to:

Evolution, 13 Lindfield Gardens, Hampstead, London NW3 6PX, UK

Information via e-mail: bmh@ee.lc.ac.uk

Your details will be held on computer

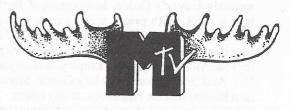
### The Programme

We're trying to stick to our main theme of 'a 700-person relaxacon', but there will, nevertheless, be plenty of things for you to do at Confabulation. There will be no formal programming on Thursday night - the Eastercon starts on Good Friday! So if you do turn up on Thursday, expect to get mugged for gophering. The convention will properly start early afternoon on Friday, and will finish on Monday afternoon.

A significant portion of Confabulation's programming will be in the form of Moose TV, an anarchic chat show. We reckon that there are quite a lot of interesting things going on at the convention, and that people should be given a few minutes to talk about or demonstrate them. If you have anything you'd like to do on Moose TV, which you think will interest or amuse your fellow fen, please let us know as soon as possible, though even if you wait until the day we'll probably be able to fit you into the line-up somewhere. Carrying on the broadcast theme, we've also stolen a couple

of programmes from Radio 4; A Good Read and Pick of the Con.

We are having an appropriate selection of spectacular spectacles, though, in keeping with the small but friendly feel of a relaxacon, you might prefer to think of them as monocles... The masquerade is mentioned elsewhere in the PR. There will be a filk concert on Friday night, including a



performance by the immensely talented Elaine Samuels, and a Ceilidh on Saturday, courtesy of the immensely Scottish Intersection.

As usual, there will be the sorts of panels that you expect from the Eastercon, on such diverse subjects as 'The Liars Guide to Getting Published' and 'The Superhighway Code'. There will also be a formal debate on the motion 'This house believes that fanzines are the best form of fannish communication.' We'll be having talks from all the usual suspects, and, of course, Bob Shaw's Serious Scientific Guest of Honour speech.

If you're short of domestic help, Confabulation will be having a slave auction, in aid of a good fannish cause. Watch our fan guest of honour, Roger Robinson, demonstrate his mastery of auctioneering as an assortment of fetching young fans come under his hammer.

As usual there will be a number of games; *Taxonomy* is a serious science fiction quiz, and *World's Biggest Twister* isn't.

For those of you who are fond of the written word, we will have readings from most of the authors attending Confabulation, and the creators of *Attitude* will be doing a live edition of their fanzine.

Running alongside all these delights will be a selection of esoteric, interesting, quirky or just plain bizarre workshops. This is your chance to swap horror stories, make a costume for the masquerade, or learn how to belly dance.

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Sion Friend of Sign Sioux Ken F. Slater Jannelies Smit Frank R. Smith Valentine Michael Smith Jane Smithers Smitty Adrian Snowdon Kate Soley Liz Sourbutt Spanner Maureen Speller James Steel Helen Steele Steve Stewart Alex Stewart Barbara Stewart David Stewart John Stewart E. B. Stokstad Mike Stone Lars Strandberg Gary Stratmann Linda Stratmann Marcus Streets **Rae Streets** Charles Stross David Symes Fay Symes Dave Tamlyn Tanya Alyson Taylor Graham Taylor Ian Taylor Teddy Marc ter Horst Chris Terran Dave Thomas Dawn Thorley Paul Thorley Tibs Helen Tidswell TI Deborah Tompkinson Tony Totoro 2 Hunter S. Toxin Iim Trash Martin Tudor Peter Tyers Lennart Uhlin Larry van der Putte Marion van der Voort Richard van der Voort Annemarie van Ewyck Vaurien David B. Wake Huw Walters

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# **Useful Information**

Confabulation is the 1995 Eastercon (UK National Science Fiction Convention). It is being held 14-17 April, 1995, at the Britannia International Hotel, Marsh Wall, Docklands, London E14. The room rates at the hotel are £31 per person per night twin or double, and £37 per person per night, including VAT and full English breakfast. Suites are available; price on application.

Our Guests of Honour are Lois McMaster Bujold, Bob Shaw and Roger Robinson.

#### Membership rates

£25 attending from 1/1/95 until 31/3/95

£10 supporting until 31/3/95

Children born after 13/4/81 pay £10 attending; children born after 13/4/87 do not have to pay, but can join (and get a badge) for £1 if they like.

they like, and bona fide soft toy moose can join for nothing.

Dealers' Tables: book these on the volunteer form.  $\pounds 20$  for the first table and  $\pounds 25$  for each subsequent one.

#### Advertising rates

Programme Book - £50 per page cash with order or £100 invoiced on publication; copy deadline 28th February.  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  pages pro rata. A4 copy for reduction to A5 please.

Camera ready copy only. We reserve the right to reject any advertisement.

#### Telephone

Confabulation's phone number is: (0161)-941-4616 (Sensible hours only, please)

The hotel's phone number is: (0171)-712-0100

Similarly, soft toys can join for a pound if

Confabulation, 3 York Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9QH

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Attending/Supporting membership(s) of Confabulation at £25 per attending member, £10 per supporting member (rate valid until 31/3/95). I agree that my name and details may be held on computer database.

Name:	•••••	 
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