

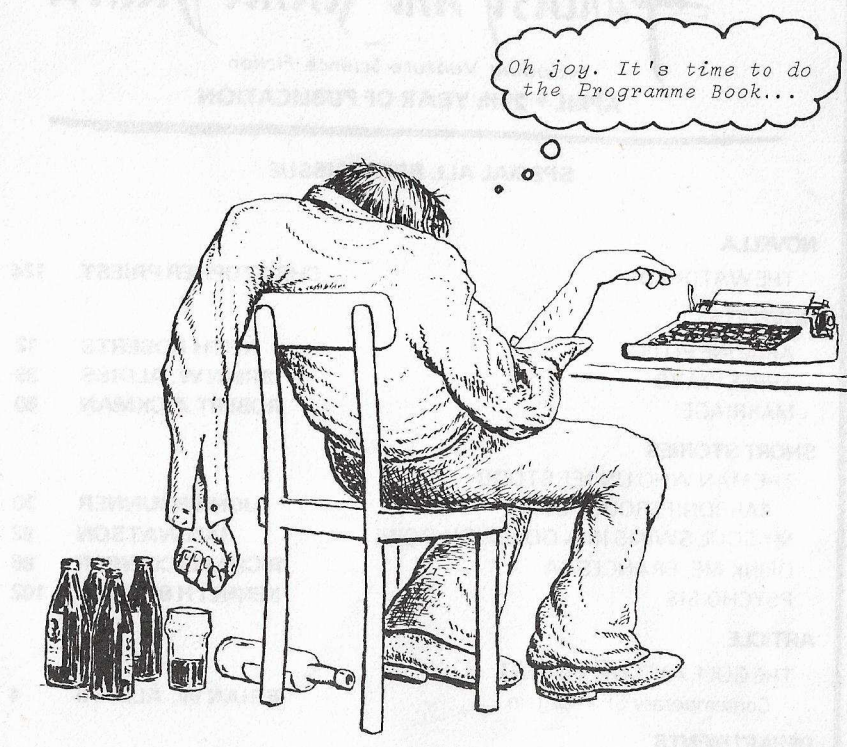
THE

29th British Easter Science Fiction
Convention: 24th to 27th March 1978

[illegible]

Guest of Honour

ROBERT SHECKLEY



Progress Report 4

Reproduced below is the table of contents for an extraordinary Special All-British issue of F&SF: eight stunning new stories from England's best writers, plus an article on the contemporary British sf scene by Brian Aldiss. Watch for the April issue, on sale during the month of March.

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Cover by David Hardy (see page 29)

Skycon

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Twenty-Ninth British Easter Science Fiction
Convention: 24th to 27th March, 1978

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Address for all correspondence---

SKYCON, 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE, RG8 7LG, U.K.

Telephone number (emergency, evenings only): 07357-2875

This is our final Progress Report, and Skycon itself is but scant weeks away. Be assured that the Committee is vaguely aware of this. Chairman Kevin Smith (A.C.A.) is furiously counting money; Dave Langford is explaining to various advertisers that it would have been better to send their copy in *before* we printed the programme book; Martin and Liese Hoare have vanished in the snowstorm of bookings which began to fall on the "final cutoff" date of 31st January and has continued ever since; Dermot Dobson is wandering about Oxford with a hopeful look and a cardboard box, seeking auction material; Keith Oborn is tracking electronic games machines ("With Rod & Gun Across The Home Counties"); and Stan Eling is cogitating in Birmingham. Our very subcommittees have been galvanised into fresh apathy: Ian Maule is rumoured to have a fannish programme and John and Eve Harvey a film programme, while Marsha Jones has kindly offered to set up the Art Room yet again.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP of Skycon (entitles you to all literature): £2.00
FULL MEMBERSHIP (entitles you to attend): £4.50 -- £2.50 for supporters
WARNING! Registration for non-members at Skycon itself will cost £5.00.
(But a reduction will be available for those attending on one day only)

HOTEL BOOKING

This seems to have caused a little confusion, with people sending in deposit cheques for so many different amounts as to cause wide-spread boggling in the computer. Since some rooms should still be available when this PR goes out, please note that *the deposit for a room is £6 per night (£3 per night if you intend to share) and the deposit cheque should be made payable to The Heathrow Hotel*. At this late date we can make no promises about room availability; we simply advise any stragglers to book instantly and hope for the best. Deposit cheques received will be returned should the hotel be fully booked.

Most of you will find a booking confirmation with this PR, in the shape of yet another print-out. Successful booking means that on your arrival at the hotel you have only to pay the balance of the total room charge of £13.80 per night plus VAT. The Heathrow representative informs us that Skycon members wishing to stay on at the hotel---during the week following the convention---may do so at the same cheap rate, provided they have booked in for at least one night of Skycon itself.

(A note for overseas members. We do not include Value Added Tax in our quoted hotel rates since the tax rate can be altered instantly by HM Government. The present rate is 8%. VAT is not charged on other convention costs.)

WHAT TO DO UNTIL THE BARMAN COMES

On arrival, there are two vital things to do. First, if you are staying at the Heathrow Hotel, check in at the reception desk---there will be a special check-in for Skycon members---pay off the balance of your hotel bill, and collect your room key. NB: *both* persons sharing a room *must* check in with the hotel.

The Skycon Registration Desk will also be set up in the foyer, and *all* convention attendees must register here. The balance owing for attending membership must be paid (£2.50 for supporting members; £5.00 for non-members). You will then be given your Convention Book and Programme, Convention Badge and Banquet ticket (if you've paid for one) or tickets (if you've paid for several). *Banquet tickets must be paid for in advance since we have to confirm numbers to the hotel 48 hours ahead of time.* Please wear your badge all the time you are on public display, so that we know you belong and so that you can buy drinks from the Convention bar. The hotel staff have instructions to ignore anyone without a badge. Wear your badge; *be* somebody!

The registration desks will open at noon on Friday. The fandom room, book room, art show and bar will open at various times during the Friday morning and afternoon. The main programme will begin in the Con Hall at 2.30pm.

ADVERTISING

The Convention Programme Book is about to go to press, and we can no longer accept advertisements for inclusion therein (except as previously booked). It is even more difficult for us to offer more display space in the final Progress Report, since this is it.

However, one or three indefatigable people have asked whether publicity leaflets supplied by themselves may be distributed along with the Programme Book. We are quite prepared to do this, provided that the leaflets are not larger than A5 size (approx 8¼" x 6"; larger sheets must be supplied folded to size) and are delivered by March 10th 1978 to *Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW, UK.* It is recommended that you provide 700 leaflets. The charge for distribution is the same as for a single page of Programme Book advertisement: £19.00 (fan rate £13.00). Both programme books and leaflets will be posted to non-attending members of Skycon.

In addition, firms wishing to put up advertising posters or small display stalls etc. can be accommodated at a nominal charge of £25.00.

FILMS

Thanks to the noble and untiring efforts of our films subcommittee, John and Eve Harvey, we have a great programme of films booked. Among the titles confirmed are *Rollerball*, *Silent Running*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Phantom of the Paradise*, *Barbarella*, *Charly* and *Tom and Jerry*.

It may even be that the film distributors will deliver some of them on time.

BSFA

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION LTD

Were you aware that there is an organisation in Britain whose sole function is to promote and advertise science fiction activities; a body comprised of writers, publishers and readers of sf?

Did you also know that the same organisation regularly produces:

A critical journal, *Vector*, to which most leading sf authors have recently contributed including: Harlan Ellison, Ursula Le Guin, Robert Silverberg, Ian Watson, J.G. Ballard.

A newsletter, *Matrix*, with letters, informal articles, news, chat and consumer reviews

A quarterly amateur writers' magazine, *Tangent*

Are you interested in joining an association that lists amongst its many other services:

The world's largest sf lending library, with over 3,000 of the best sf books ever written

A tape library, containing recordings of talks by many famous sf writers and critics

An internal *Yearbook*, surveying the last 12 months' activities in the science fiction area

A magazine chain, from which all the leading American publications can be easily borrowed

An sf enquiry service to help in answering queries on science fiction and such related interests as tracking down books, authors, stories, artists, magazines and so forth

If you are interested, then you can obtain further information, and application forms from the Membership Secretary, Dave Gobbledick

245 Rosalind Street,
Ashington,
Northumberland,
NE63 9AZ

Membership of the BSFA costs only £5.00 per year. Isn't it worth it for all the BSFA's services? As a science fiction reader you will find membership enjoyable and worthwhile. Why not write off to Dave right away?

For a sample BSFA mailing, containing *Vector*, *Matrix*, etc, send £1.00 (deductable from cost of membership if you join).

AWARDS

Several awards will be presented at the Skycon banquet on Sunday evening. Some of these presentations will depend on judging or voting at the convention itself...

The Doc Weir Award is a wide-open popularity award; ballots will be available at the Registration Desk and fuller details in the Programme Book. Any Skycon member can cast a vote.

The Ken McIntyre Memorial Award is awarded by a select committee to the artist judged to have produced the best fanzine illustration printed in the previous year---in this case Jan 1st to Dec 31st 1977. Artists and editors take heed! Both the original and the reproduction must be submitted when entering for this award, to be displayed with other entries at the Skycon Art Show.

The Delta Film Award is voted by the audience at the Delta Film Show, at Skycon, for the best amateur SF/fantasy film shown. We haven't yet heard from the organisers...

The Art Show Awards will appear for the first time at Skycon. Marsha Jones has suggested that the award categories be SF, Fantasy, Humorous and Astronomical. Ballot forms will be provided at the Art Show so that every Skycon member can vote on these awards... We hope that this will encourage artists to display fine work, even if they don't want it to be auctioned.

Other people and organisations wishing to present awards at the end of the banquet should notify us as far in advance as possible.

AUCTIONS

Auction material is still wanted, and will be right up to the time the auction starts.

Bring your rare first editions to the book auction; the convention takes a mere ten per cent of the proceeds. Or, if you're feeling generous, donate your old unwanted books to the convention so that we can take a moderate one hundred per cent of the proceeds.

Artists exhibiting in the art show can arrange for their works to be auctioned on the same terms. The original artwork for the Skycon Programme Book will be among the items auctioned (it's a fine piece of work by Brian Lewis).

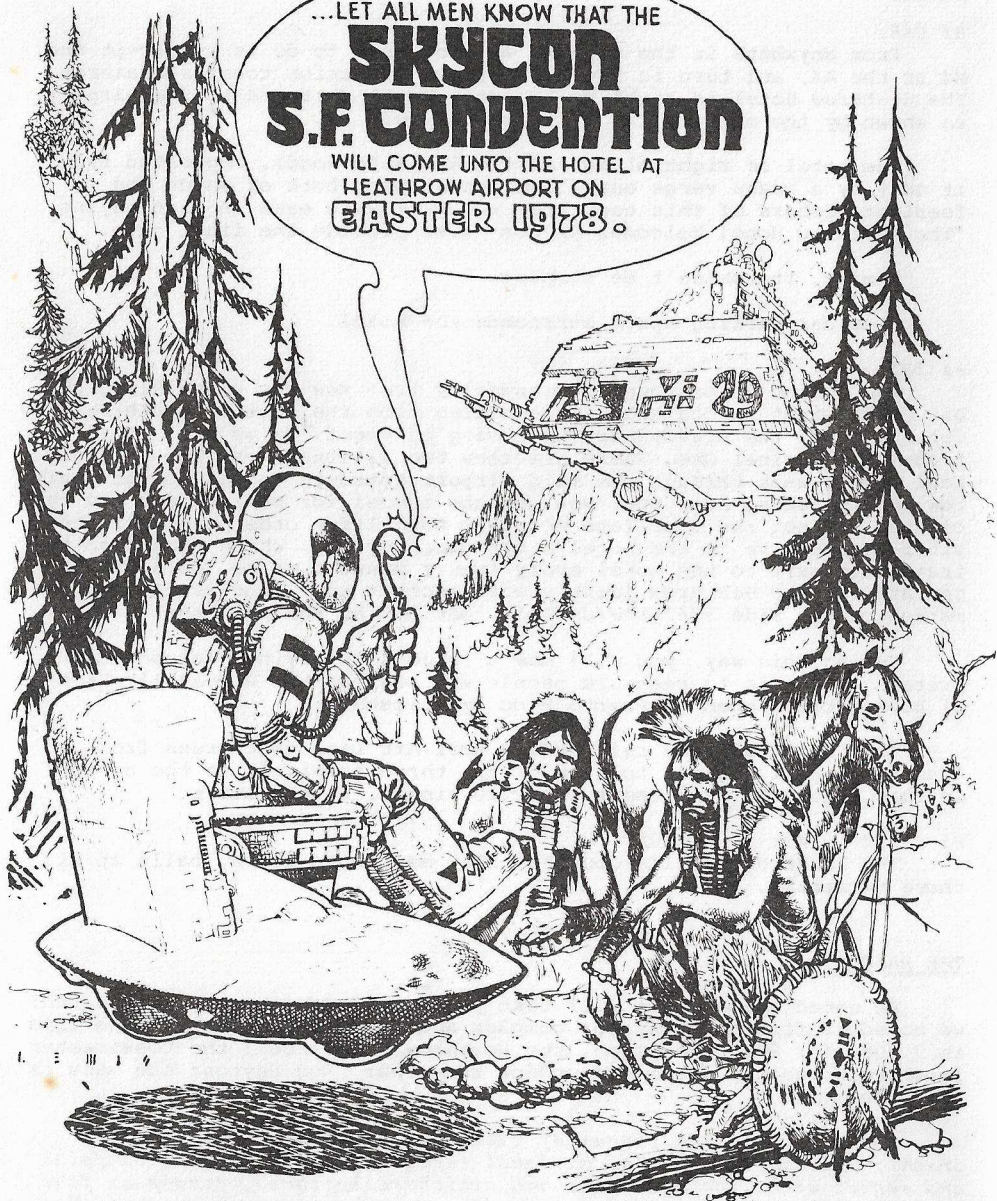
Donations will also be gratefully accepted for the TAFF and GUFF auctions. TAFF and GUFF are funds intending to bring an American fan and an Australian fan (respectively) to the World Convention here in 1979. Worthy causes, both of them.

All auction material should be handed in at the registration desk or to a committee member, such as huge Dermot Dobson.

OUR ARTISTS

The front cover is by D.WEST, depicting with ease the feelings of a committee: our poster (opposite) is by BRIAN LEWIS. Thanks to both!

...LET ALL MEN KNOW THAT THE
SKYCON
S.F. CONVENTION
WILL COME UNTO THE HOTEL AT
HEATHROW AIRPORT ON
EASTER 1978.



SO COME, MAKE WELCOME TO THE SCRIBES, PICTURE MAKERS,
STORYSELLERS & ALL... FOR MORE WORDS MAKE SIGNALS
TO **SKYCON** 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKS. RG 8 - 7LG.

TRAVEL

BY CAR:

From anywhere in the country all you have to do is intercept the M4 or the A4, and turn in the appropriate direction towards Heathrow. The Heathrow Hotel is right by the main North entrance to the airport, as shown by the maps on the back page of this PR.

The hotel is right alongside the A4 (Bath Road), separated from it only by a grass verge and a low fence, over both of which the feeblest members of this committee can walk with ease. A sign saying "The Heathrow Hotel Welcomes Skycon" will provide the final clue.

Really, it couldn't be simpler.

Free car parking space surrounds the hotel.

BY RAIL:

The London Underground's Piccadilly line now has a sparkling new bit going right to Heathrow. On emerging from the tube at Heathrow Central, take the travolator (or moving pavement, as we call it in the trade) to Terminal One. There are then two alternatives. One is a fifteen minute walk through the main airport entrance tunnel to the Heathrow Hotel, making sure that you use the tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists, and not the four-lane motorway tunnel for other traffic. The other alternative is the hotel's own courtesy bus, which runs from the travolator exit to the hotel every twenty minutes or so. This bus is operated by the Heathrow jointly with another hotel and is clearly marked on the side *HEATHROW/SKYLINE*. Get off at the Heathrow.

Coming this way, you will see a large sign saying "Welcome to Britain". This is to reassure people who suspect the Piccadilly Line of having taken them to Puerto Rico by mistake.

It's not really by rail, but a Rail-Air Link coach runs from Reading General station to each of the three terminals at the airport in turn. The cost at present is £2.20 single, £3.60 return.

BY AIR TO HEATHROW AIRPORT:

The Heathrow Hotel's courtesy bus, mentioned above, calls at all three terminals.

THE BANQUET

As noted above, this will take place on Sunday night, 26th March; we moved it from Saturday for complex and inarguable reasons. The time is 7.30pm for 8pm; the place, the Heathrow's Ballroom; the toastmaster is that incredibly suave and urbane raconteur, Rog Peyton; the menu is as follows...

Crème printanière (cream of fresh vegetable soup with fresh cream); Suprême de volaille maréchal (breast of chicken shallow fried and served with asparagus tops and artichoke bottoms), pommes au four (baked potatoes in jacket, served with sour cream and chives), petits pois flamands (buttered garden peas and diced carrots); Soufflé glacé au Grand Marnier (iced soufflé flavoured with Grand Marnier); coffee.

The price is £6 per person including VAT and service charge; wine is not included. Payment in advance is required; payments already made should be acknowledged on the ubiquitous computer sheet enclosed.

The Science Fiction BOOK CLUB

Today's Science was yesterday's Science Fiction

We are living in the kind of world which many science fiction authors were writing about 30 or 40 years ago. *We are living in a science fiction world* — and who knows, today's *Star Wars* may be tomorrow's reality!

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- 3 **Kramer Project** by ROBERT A SMITH
(Published at £3.75)
- 4 **Oil-Seeker** by MICHAEL ELDER
(Published at £3.25)
- 5 **Martian Inca** by IAN WATSON
(Published at £3.95)
- 6 **Best SF Stories of the Year 4** Edited by LESTER DEL REY
(Published at £3.50)
- 7 **Shakespeare's Planet** by CLIFFORD D SIMAK
(Published at £3.50)
- 8 **Maxwells Demon** by MARTIN SHERWOOD
(Published at £3.50)
- 9 **Mote in Gods Eye** by LARRY NIVEN & JERRY POURNELLE
(Published at £4.50)
- 10 **Stainless Steel Rat Saves the World**
by HARRY HARRISON
(Published at £1.90)
- 11 **Wandering Worlds** by TERRY GREENHOUGH
(Published at £4.50)
- 12 **Lincoln Hunters** by WILSON TUCKER
(Published at £3.95)
- 13 **Wonderworlds** by WILLIAM F NOLAN
(Published at £4.50)

To: Science Fiction Book Club,
Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon

I would like to join the Science Fiction Book Club for a six month membership (one book a month) and will thereafter give one month's notice if I wish to resign. I claim the five introductory books indicated at only 10p each (plus 60p total carriage).

PLEASE SEND INTRODUCTORY BOOKS NOS.

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Please allow 21 days for delivery.

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Signature _____

(or if under 18, signature of Parent/Guardian)

SEND NO MONEY with this coupon

POST TODAY
QZ

FANCY DRESS

There is still over a month before the con, which is plenty of time to get a fancy-dress costume ready. There are several categories for which prizes will be given... Our list shows the main ones, but it is not necessarily exhaustive and is liable to change at less than a moment's notice. The originality and splendour of your costume may force an entirely new category into being at the very last minute.

+++++

BEST COSTUME

SILLIEST COSTUME

BEST GROUP

LEAST COSTUME

+++++

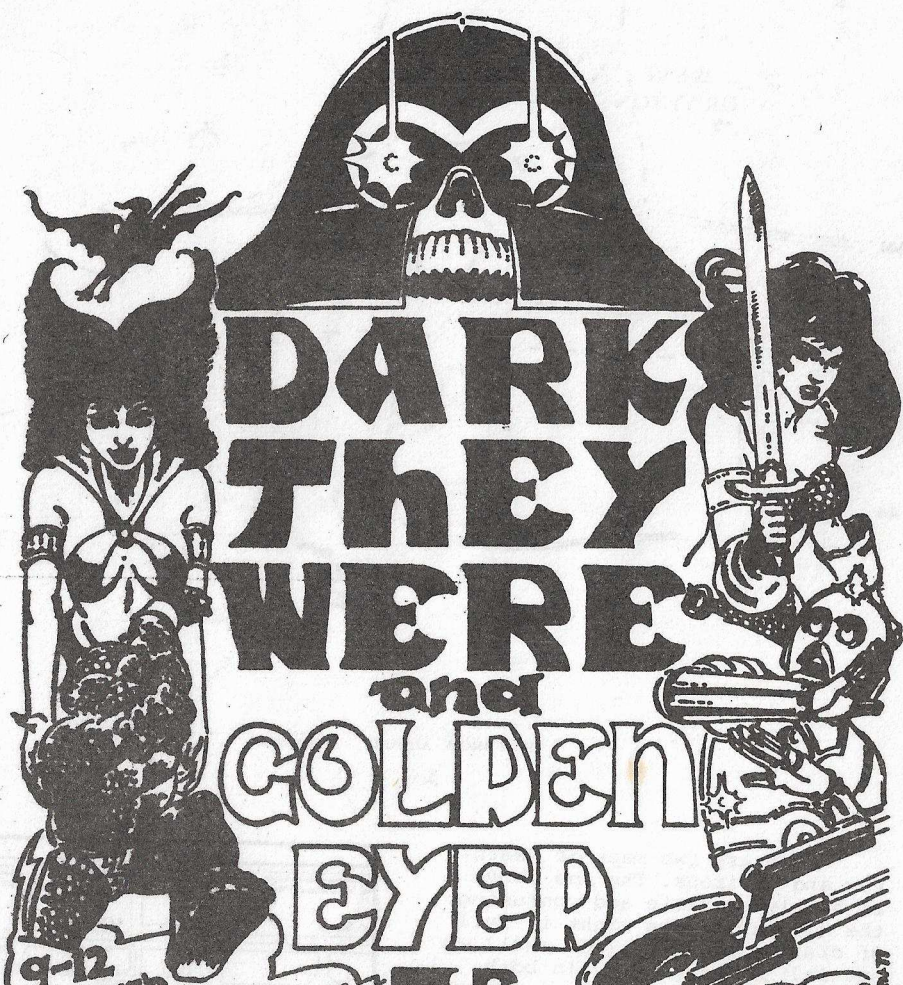
So that we have a little warning of the numbers, can you tell us when you check in at the registration desk if you intend to enter this utterly magnificent competition? Thanks.

NEW MEMBERS OF SKYCON

302 Mike Scott Rohan	336 Sonya Porter	370 Joan Langeveld
303 Deborah H. Rohan	337 Paul Begg	371 Martin Mounsey
304 Rob Holdstock	338 Judy Crowther	372 Patrick Place
305 Beth Hallum	339 Ian Watson	373 Al Fitzpatrick
306 Ann Looker	340 John Hunt	374 Duane Harwood
307 David Todd	341 Nick Webb	375 Martin Hatfield
308 Allen Boyd-Newton	342 Robin Hill	376 Chris Umpleby
309 E. Nightingale	343 John Mitchell	377 Lester Hannington
310 Janet Hunt	344 George Bondar	378 D.I. Lischka
311 Michael Sinclair	345 L. Sutherland	379 Trevor Briggs
312 Oliver King	346 Paul Ellis	380 (Friend of above)
313 George Hay	347 Judy Mortimore	381 Hugh Creswell
314 M.D. Hutchinson	348 Tuija Farmer	382 Paul Lyne
315 J. Stewart	349 Jim Lush	383 Paul Fraser
316 Peter Wareham	350	384 H. Coates
317 Paul Wharrier	351 (Friends of)	385 Pam Baddely
318 Nils Lawe	352 (Jim Lush)	386 David E. Bridges
319 Jenny Rigby	353 Peter Roberts	387 Jacki Smith
320 Brian Burgess	354 Richard Slaughter	388 John C. Kerr
321 Garry Kilworth	355 Margaret Wellbank	389 Helen McCarthy
322 Annette Kilworth	356 Charles Partington	390 Barbara Kitson
323 David Strahan	357 Harry Nadler	391 Peter Tyers
324 P.J. Hanmore	358 Marie Nadler	392 Roger Robinson
325 Ken Mann	359 Ashley Watkins	393 Chris Lewis
326 Gerald Pollinger	360 (Friend of above)	394 Immo Huneke
327 Graham Andrews	361 Rob Whitaker	395 Lesley Ward
328 David Garnett	362 Kevin Williams	396 Anna Lieff
329 Tony Richards	363 Susan Williams	397 Sue Weil
330 Louise Richards	364 Jean Maudsley	398 John Williams
331 Karel Thole	365 Betty McLean	399 John Claxton
332 Paul Barnett	366 Simon Pouard	400 R.I. Gilbert
333 S.N. Walker	367 Tina Anghelatos	401 A.R. Stephens
334 Helen Walker	368 Roy Marcus	402 Stuart Andrews
335 Bob Shaw	369 Colin Langeveld	403 Susan Winn

This list is complete to 5th February 1978.

This is positively our last Progress Report. From now, you're on your own---we hope to see you at Skycon. Good luck!



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