

Fed-up with Fiji?

Bored by Barcelona?

Satiated with Skiing?

Be Beatified, Beguiled and Bedazzled by

Beneluxcon 3

After this years trip to SFancon 5, Vernon Brown is organising another, this time to Beneluxcon 3, to be held in Belgium next year.

If you are interested in going to a foreign con, and perhaps extending it into a holiday, with other British fans, just send your name and address to Vernon at 'The Pharmacy Dept., Aston University, Costa Green, Birmingham B4 7ET. England.' As they become available you will be sent details of the con, cost of tickets etc. and if you decide to go all arrangements will be made for you - this way we may be able to get travel concessions.

NOVAcon 4

Imperial Centre Hotel, Birmingham

25th-26th-27th October 1974

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Cover by David Hardy

chairman: Dr. Jack Cohen

committee:

Pauline E. Dungate · Stan Eling · Robert Hoffman
Arline Peyton · Hazel C. Reynolds

**Organised by the Birmingham
Science Fiction Group**

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Support manco BIDDING COMMITTEE for the 1976 British S.F. Convention

Chairman: **Harry Nadler**
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Friends,

The Chairman of Novacon is required to expiate some of his sins by a ritual confession. Here goes.

When I was asked to chair Novacon 4 by Roger and Hazel, I made the standard acceptance speech "Me? Well I'm very flattered.....but I really don't have time".....So I was flattered into it, but pointed out that I wasn't a Worker. Oh, that's alright, they said, we'll work!

Well, you may not believe this, but it is really true. I didn't, and they did; and Pauline did and Stan did with the money and especially Robert did with the registrations.....All I did was attend meetings around our houses, change subjects, and leave. Arline did all the letters, and I've learnt: What a lovely lot of people these fen are. Ambrose Bierce defined "Figurehead: that part of the ship which does the thinking while the captain does the acting". So my thanks, and yours, go to Robert Hoffman for fielding all your funny requests (like baths, lions feet, balls, Pekingese); Hazel Reynolds (Nova award - and fun 'n' games - you'll see in the mystic hour); Stan Eling (and Helen) for handling the money and this programme booklet; Arline (and Roger) for sending out the emissions and fielding the lists (listing the fields?); Pauline for being helpful too.

A word here about Gillon Field; she started us off well. A tribute to her is that her start carried us on through Easter. We are proud, and happier, that we have known her.

Those old fans (look out for them, neos) will have a good time; they expect to. You newcomers, too - don't dither, go up to your favourity author. He may show you his latest karate kick, and you will at least be wiser. But if you remember that they all love flattery.....go on, force yourselves!

Enjoy yourselves, and please find committee members, or go to the desk, if we can help you.

Live long and prosper

JACK COHEN



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KENNETH FREDERICK SLATER

So the man says 'write an introduction for Ken Slater Ken Slater needs an introduction? - Don't make me laugh! Anyway - here goes! Introducing that Genial Chunterer - General Kenneth F. Slater. Or should it be that General Chunterer genial K.F.S.? As long as the word genial is in there it dosen't really matter.

Ken is a fan - and was one before the word was invented Before me as I write is a copy of Ken's fanzine 'Operation Fantast' (contributors amongst others included Carnell, Keller, Newman, Rayer, Williamson, Campbell M'Intosh, Jeeves, Reynolds Clarke and Brunner 'Kitian Houston Brunner that is') - not the original 'Operation Fantast but the new series which started in July ~~17-18~~ 1949 costing six demarai (one fortieth of a pound or two and a half pence) This is of course whilst serving in HMF in B.A.O.R. (If you don't know what the initials mean, buy Ken a drink and he'll tell you) Ken was axed from the army during the fifties purge - but the Army's loss was definitely our gain. Moving to Wisbech he opened the bookshop Fantast (Medway) Ltd which he still runs. Upon leaving the Army Ken took an active part in fandom, being a founder member of the BSFA and has been made a Life Member of that organisation for services rendered. Taking a less active part now, he still holds a watching brief but feels that the true spirit of fandom has departed with the arrival of the so called 'intelligensia' He holds strong views that S.F. is fun or prophetic story telling but when it requires analysis it is destroying the genre. As for the 'new wave' I cannot repeat his comments;

He has, at one time or another done practically everything in fandom - running a successful convention 'Petercon ' 63 and dare I tell it ! took his charming wife Joyce to a convention for their honeymoon. K.F.S. is also K.SF., in other words a Knight of the Order of Saint Fantony, but not, I hasten to add, for the honeymoon caper.

Ken has a phenomenal knowledge of SF of books, of people who write them and of people who read them and has many an interesting tale to tell - some of them definitely sub rosa. As I said in the beginning Ken is a genial character - but if he starts to chew his mustache; take cover - as I am going to do before he reads this.

JUNIPER

17th September 1974

NOTE: IF FOR ANY REASON CURRYCON 1 DOES NOT TAKE PLACE, ALL FUNDS WILL BE USED TO HELP ENGLAND WIN THEIR 1979 WORLD CON BID.

TO BE HELD ON APRIL 31st 1975 AT TIPTON
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AND STANDARD ENGLISH!

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Co-AUTHORS OF SF CLASSICS "STRANGER IN STOURBRIDGE",
"THE WEAPON SHOPS OF OLDBURY" AND THE WORLD-FAMOUS
"FOUNDRY" TRILOGY.

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THE GORBALS: A STORY OF TWO MEN'S QUEST
FOR FRESH AIR"

PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE

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SPECIAL STAR TRUCK EPISODE "TRIBBLE AT MILL"

PANEL SESSIONS - "HAS COCK FIGHTING A PLACE
IN BRITISH CONVENTIONS?"; "PROBLEMS OF
WHIPPET RACING IN ZERO GRAVITY"; "FLY FISHING
IN THE CANALS OF MARS"

ALSO LATE NIGHT DWOILE FLUNKING!

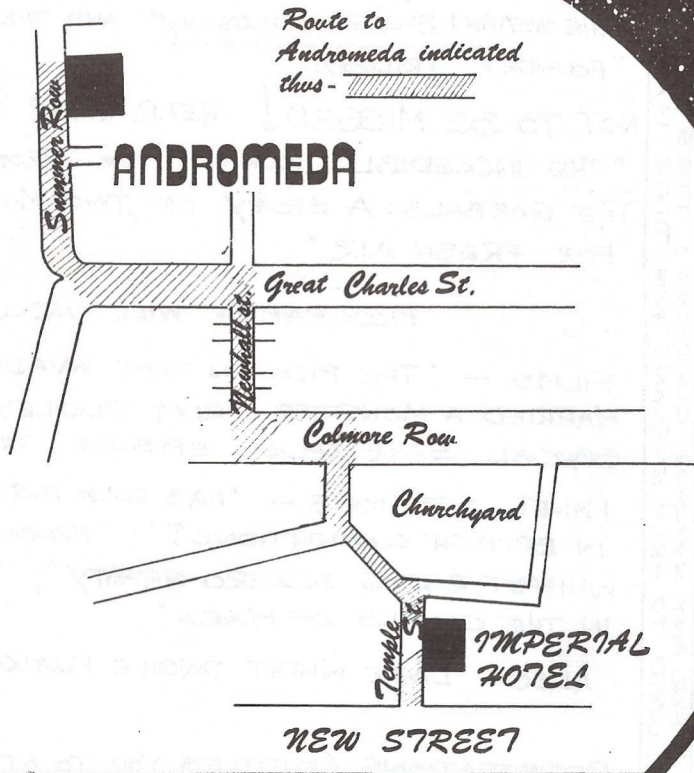
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25th-26th-27th October 1974

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY

- 8.00p.m. Pete Weston - Taff Report
9.30p.m. Films. Attention. Outer Galaxy Gazette.
Time Machine.

SATURDAY

- 10.00a.m. Tom Shippey - Science & Magic.
11.00a.m. Coffee.
11.30a.m. Is Hugo Alive & Well
Jim Blish, Pete Nicholls, Rob Holdstock,
Chris Priest
12.30p.m. Lunch
2.30p.m. G.O.H.
3.30p.m. Tea
4.00p.m. Special Item
5.00p.m. Auction
7.00p.m.
7.30p.m. Buffet
9.00p.m. Speeches
11.00p.m. Fancy Dress
12.00 Judging
12.00 Judging

BIRMINGHAM

B. SATURDAY

- 11.15a.m. Pink Finger - Cartoons
to 1.15p.m.
5.00-7.00 1st Albert Memorial to the Moon.
Far side of the Sun
Bloppers
Blaze Glory
10.00 - 11.30 The Day Mars Invaded Earth

B. SUNDAY

- 9.30a.m. Wargame Demo. Phil Barker

SUNDAY

- 10.30a.m. Gods in SF Jim Blish
11.30a.m. Coffee
12.00 Prizes. Art Auction
1.00p.m. Lunch
2.30p.m. John Fremlin
3.45p.m. Tea
4.15p.m. Wigan Pier in 1984? Andrew Stephenson
Pete Weston, Pete Presford, Fred Hemmings
Rob Jackson
5.00p.m. Goodbye

A SOBER THOUGHT

The management wishes to make it clear that it will charge corkage for any alcoholic beverage or drink brought into the hotel. However off sales cans and bottles will be available for purchase at the box and a price list will be put in the room of every convention member.

CONVENTIONAL QUIZ

How do YOU score on Conventions? To find out, tick the answers you think are the correct ones to the following questions and then turn the page round to find your rating.

- (1) "Solaris" was written by (a) Lem (b) Brunner (c) Verne
- (2) Do you find going abroad (a) Interesting (b) Boring (c) Never been abroad
- (3) Do you find conventions (a) Boring (b) A raison d'etre (c) Useful to meet people
- (4) Is East European SF the same as West European SF (a) Yes (b) No (c) Sometimes
- (5) Do you speak (a) German (b) French (c) English
- (6) Which of these is not British (a) Eastercon (b) Eurocon (c) Novacon
- (7) Can you save a pound or so a week (a) Yes (b) No (c) Depends on the reason
- (8) Is a roomparty (a) A housewarming party (b) For meeting people (c) A flatmate
- (9) Do you like meeting foreign fans (a) Yes (b) No (c) Never had the chance
- (10) Is a Zloty (a) A furry alien (b) A foreign coin (c) A barbarian from Zlo

ANSWERS (1) a (2) a or c (3) b or c (4) b (5) a b or c (6) b (7) a or c (8) b (9) a or c (10) b

YOUR RATING

None Correct - I don't know how you got hold of this programme but you'd better return it.

1-5 Correct - You show promise, proceed as ratings 6-10.

6-10 Correct - You seem to be the sort of person who would enjoy going to Eurocon 3, to be held in Poland in 1976. Why not send your name and address, without obligation, as soon as possible to Vernon Brown, the British Agent/Committee Member for this convention, and he will send you details when they become available in the near future. He intends, given enough support, to organise a reduced fare trip to the con, and his address is 'The Pharmacy Dept., University of Aston, Gosta Green, Birmingham B4 7ET, ENGLAND.

This space is supposed to be devoted to us telling you how good we are. This is known as advertising and at its simplest is a listing of materials and or services provided. We feel that the way by

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which we obtain most of our new clients is by far the best form, and so there is always a large amount of blank space on our page in these booklets. Oh yes, we get our new clients, by personal recommendation, from those who have been with us for a reasonable length of time

Thoughts on NOVACON, 1971

(To Jack, John, and the rest of the Terra-Forming Panel)

My little son, one evening,
(As if he owned the lot)
Was listing constellations
Beyond the chimney-pot.

He showed me round those heavens like a grocer round his
store,
Reciting facts and figures till my brain could stand no
more;
For though he's only seven, the glittering hosts of heaven
Are brought by "Science Wonders", every Thursday to his
door.

His pride is right and proper,
For is he not the heir
To those unfathomed spaces
That dimly glitter there?

For surely in his lifetime (it looks like very soon)
We'll colonise those regions where the midnight flames
as noon:
We'll clamber from our rockets, and with vouchers in our
pockets
We'll queue for Coca-Cola in the craters of the moon.

Across uncounted lightyears
Mankind will leave his trace,
His mark of human wisdom
On interstellar space
Banana skins, and broken glass, and bage for choc-ice bars
Will then revolve as planets in vast orbits round the
stars;
And Man in all his glory will live to tell the story
Of crisps consumed, of lollies licked, amind the snows
of Mars.

Farther still, and farther,
Beyond our wildest dreams
Till every spiral nebula
Is stocked with Jake's Ice Creams -
My little son was weeping: he cried, "It isn't true!
We'd never spoil the planets, Dad! It isn't what we'd
do!"

For, with all their learned diction, those works of
Science Fiction
Have never seemed to teach him that the Earth's a planet
too.

With thanks for a super week-end

Love
Celia

THE NOVA AWARD

The Nova award for the best British fanzine made its debut last year at Novacon 3. Its winner was Taff representative Peter Weston for Speculation. Peter has not entered into the running this year.

I am pleased to say that we have had a fair selection of zines nominated for this year's award. It will be interesting to see which editor will be following Peter's footsteps. The judges have all put in a great deal of thought about the award and even if you don't happen to agree with their choice of winner, I'm sure you'll agree they've had a very difficult job.

I would like to thank them for all the hard work and time they've put into the award. It couldn't have happened without them. I'd also like to thank all those of you who nominated zines for the award, and most of all I'd like to say a big thank you to all the editors who have published zines, and sent them in to me.

Don't forget to nominate a zine next year.

1. Ken Slater
2. Dr. Jack Cohen
4. Peter Weston
5. Eileen Weston
6. Hazel C. Reynolds
7. Chris Morgan
8. Vernon C. Brown
9. Pat Andrews
10. Stan Eling
11. Helen Eling
12. Fred Hemming
13. Bob Shaw
14. Mrs. Shaw
15. James White
16. Richard Newnham
17. Meg Boak
18. John Piggot
19. Norman Shorrocks
20. Ina Shorrocks
21. Janet Shorrocks
22. Bernard Peek
23. David A. Symes
24. Ted Ball
25. Geoff Winterman
26. Rowena Winterman
27. Pauline E. Dungate
28. Arthur Cruttenden
29. H. K. Bulmer
30. Daniel Bouvet
31. John Farrimond
32. Keith A. Walker
33. Darrell Pardoe
34. Rosemary Pardoe
35. Andrew M. Stephenson
36. Dave Kyle
37. Ruth Kyle
38. Graham Poole
39. Tony Walsh
40. Eddie Jones
41. Marsha Jones
42. Peter Mabey
43. Norman Weedall
44. Dave Sutton
45. Sandra Sutton
46. P. T. Johnson
47. Vic Hallett
48. John Lowe
49. Kevin Smith
50. Robert A. Jackson

51. Jan Jansen
52. Mrs. Jansen
53. Martin Stallard
54. Rod Milner
55. Charles D. Winstone
56. Simon Joukes
57. Caroline de Koning
58. Mike Meara
59. Pat Meara
60. Hartley Patterson
61. Graham Boak
62. Vic Jones
63. Mrs. Slater
64. Miss Slater
65. Roger Peyton
66. Mike Kilvert
67. Mark Adlard
68. Anna F. Prince
69. Dave Rowe
70. Gerald Bishop
71. Mike Brain
72. Frank Wyers
73. David R. Langford
74. Brian Hampton
75. Brian Robinson
76. James O'Mera
77. Jim Linwood
78. Peter R. Fryer
79. Dave Chipping
80. Joan Chopping
81. Keith Freeman
82. Wendy Freeman
83. Malcolm J. Davies
84. John Jerrold
85. Harry Bell
86. Irene Bell
87. Kevin Hall
88. Chris Bursey
89. Henry P. PiJohn
90. Vera Johnson
91. Miss Wendy Ellis
92. Miss Hazel Salter
93. Mike Mitchell
94. John D'White
95. John Steward
96. Tim Broadribb
98. Christine Hay
99. George Hay
100. Phil Rogers

101. Doreen Rogers
102. Tricia Parker
103. Ian Maule
104. Greg Pickersgill
105. Richard Rendell
106. Martin Peake
107. Paul Oliver
108. Robert P. Holdstock
109. Deborah M. Hickenlooper
110. Ian Watson
111. James Blish
112. Judith Blish
113. Donald Malcolm
114. Rita Malcolm
115. Robert Smith
116. Mary Smith
117. Melicia Smith
118. T. P. Hogan
119. Howie Rosenblum
120. Graham Andrews
121. Dr. R. I. Gilbert
122. Laurence James
123. S. G. Reynolds
124. John R. Bates
125. Mike Gadd
126. D. B. Dobson
127. Jan Howard Finder
128. Peter Roberts
129. Cpl John Mansfield
130. Ira Kettle
131. Peter Nicholls
132. Alan R. Oram
133. Ray Bradbury
134. Charles Partington
135. Robert A. Hepworth
136. George Locke
137. D. H. Walters
138. G. Johnson
139. Julia Stone
140. Mr. M. J. Houghton
141. Dorothy Houghton
142. Jeremy Elsmore
143. Jerry Webb
144. Mrs. Webb
145. Elaine D. Wash
146. Martin Hoare
147. Robin Crickman
148. Marcus L. Rowland
149. Leszek Jecznyk
150. Barry Smith

151. S. Birch
152. Norman West
153. Trevor Barker
154. Chris Priest
155. Penny Grant
156. Ian Roll
157. P. Crozier
158. P.O. Callaghan
159. Donna Munro
160. R. W. N. Mortimore
161. Mrs. Mortimore
162. Tim Stannard
163. Jeffrey D. Hacker
164. Catherine Booth
165. Michael Damesick
166. David Riley
167. S. G. Reynolds
168. Michael Scott Rohan
169. M. Coton
170. Alison Heslop

171. Brian Ameringen
172. R. O. McLean
173. J. Huggoch
174. Pandora Birch
175. Peter Clews
176. Tony Simmons
177. Terry Simmons
178. Paul Ahearne
179. Ron Bennett
180. Simone Walsh
181. A. G. I. Williams
182. Gerald Lawrence
183. John-Henri Holmberg
184. Michael Ferec
185. P. E. Frenfal
186. David Fringle
187. Dave R. Upton
188. Jennie Brunton
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190. J. Rubinstein

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201. Chris Grainger
202. Brian Parker
203. Alan P. Milne
204. Chris Fowler
205. Andrew May
206. Peter Boyd
207. W. D. Christie
208. Malcolm Smale
209. Ian Williams
210. Christopher Smart
211. W. D. Heyes

NOVACON 6

Novacon 6 will take place the year after next, so if you want to know where and when, come to Novacon 5.

Novacon 5 will be held in Birmingham on the first weekend in November 1975. That is November 7th, 8th and 9th. The chairman is our own wheeler and dealer Roger Peyton.

Rog will be around at this convention if you want to talk to him about what you think he should do. With Novacon 5 I mean. His better half Arline, and Pauline - Novacon 2 - Dungate will be taking registrations of the customary 30p on Sunday. Don't forget to register before you leave. See you there?

Anyone interested in helping with Novacon 5 and 6 should contact any member of the Birmingham Group Committee, or should write to Roger.

BRITAIN IS FINE

IN 79