

ReCONnaissance

ReadMe!

Introduction

This sheet contains important information about the convention, so please read it. Note that the programme reprinted within is more up-to-date than that printed in the Programme Book. If you have any problems during the weekend and need to contact the convention staff, either go to the Registration Desk if it is open, or the Ops Room, or find a committee member (committee members will be wearing yellow membership badges and a harassed look).

Badges

You must wear your convention badge (which is in your membership pack) at all times when you are in the convention area. If you do not wear your badge while in the convention area, the convention security staff may challenge you and will ask you to leave if you cannot prove that you are an attending member of *Reconnaissance*.

Keys

The Hotel are providing two keys for twin and double rooms. Since the extra keys do not have key rings, would all members please leave their keys at reception when leaving the Hotel.

Sticky

Signs and posters may only be affixed using blu-tac on non-fabric surfaces; sticky pads and tape are right out.

No Smoking

Please observe no-smoking notices where they have been put up around the convention and abide by them.

Dealers Room

The Dealers Room (Marquis Suite) will be open as follows:

Friday: 18:00 to 20:00 (if the Dealers are ready)
Saturday: 10:00 to 18:00
Sunday: 10:00 to 16:00

Please do not take drinks into the Dealers Room – leave them on the table at the door of the room (dealers, of course, have special dispensation).

Auction

The convention auction will take place at 10:30 on Sunday morning. Anyone who has items for the auction MUST leave them at the Ops Room (the Caerphilly Room) on Friday or Saturday; goods brought directly to the auction will NOT be

sold. All goods should be clearly marked indicating the owner, the minimum bid and where the money collected (minus the convention's 10% commission) should go.

Registration

General information about the convention (including replacement copies of this sheet) can be obtained from the Registration Desk in the hotel foyer. The Registration Desk will be open as follows:

Friday: 16:00 to 21:00
Saturday: 09:00 to 19:00
Sunday: 09:00 to 12:00

Day Membership

Day membership is valid from 8:00 in the morning on the day joined, for 24 hours. When a day membership expires it must be renewed either at the Registration Desk or, if that is closed, at the Ops Room (the Caerphilly Room).

Checking-Out

Convention members who are resident in the convention hotel should clear their rooms and check-out at hotel registration by midday on the day they are due to leave. Note that billing is by room and not per person, therefore people sharing a twin room MUST arrange to check-out at the same time so that the room bill can be divided.

Bar

The Convention Bar is in the Duchess Suite (see map overleaf). It will be open from 17:00 on Friday and from 11:00 on Saturday and Sunday. The bar will close not earlier than 2:00 in the morning, later if you all drink enough to keep it open, however non-residents may not order drinks after 1:00 in the morning. Baps will be served from behind the bar throughout the day priced at £1.50 each.

Meals

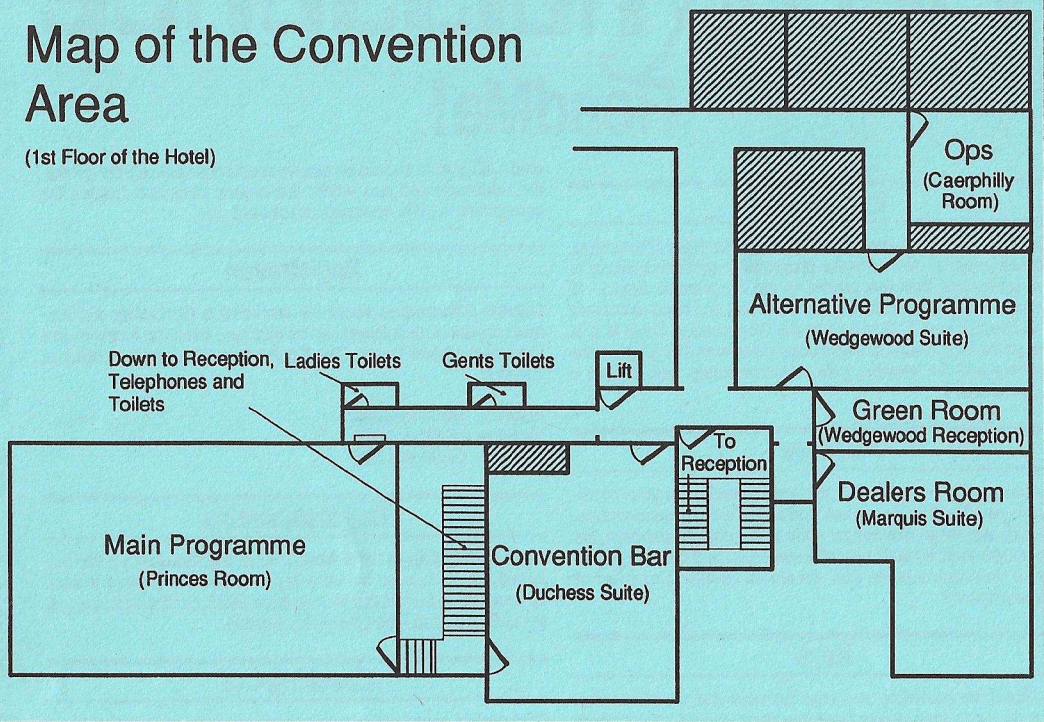
Breakfast will be served in the Caernavon and/or Theatre Garden rooms between 7:30 and 10:30. Hotel residents must use the breakfast tickets which they will find in their membership pack – if you cannot produce a valid breakfast ticket you will be charged for your breakfast.

Hot meals will be served in the Convention Bar (Duchess Suite) at the following times:

Friday: 21:00 to 22:00
Saturday: 12:30 to 14:00 and 18:30 to 20:30
Sunday: 12:30 to 14:00 and 19:00 to 20:30

Map of the Convention Area

(1st Floor of the Hotel)



Friday

Main Programme

18:30	The Sword in the Stone Walt Disney's animated version of the life of the young King Arthur up to the point he gains the throne. The boy Wart finds refuge from the tribulations of the castle life in the company of Merlin who endeavours to teach the future King by example..	
19:00		
19:30		
20:00	Pas de Deux A short animated film – see Programme Book.	
20:15	Opening Ceremony The committee welcomes you; followed by ...	
20:30	The Space Traffic Controller's Speech	
21:00	The Forgotten Heritage of SF A discussion of writers whose work in SF and Fantasy has been forgotten by the genre, such as E. Nesbitt, J. M. Barrie, W. Churchill. Has the genre lost something by neglecting the work of these authors? <i>C. Mullan (c), Gill Alderman, Ros Kaveney, Dave Langford.</i>	
22:00	What I Would Have Done Ten Years Ago If Only I Had Known ... The panellists look back at their achievements in SF. What do they regret and what are they glad to have done? <i>R. Robinson (c), S. M. Baxter, Lionel Fanthorpe, Terry Pratchett, Alex Stewart, P. Weston.</i>	
23:00	The Man in the White Suit Alec Guinness plays a quiet but determined scientist who creates a new fabric that does not get dirty, almost demolishing his lab in the process. However, unions and manufacturers both realise the implications and combine forces to prevent it being sold (finishes 00:40).	
23:30		

Alternative Programme

Morgan-le-Fay Meets the Star Trek Rebels A storytelling session from Lorna Mitchell, an expert in the field. <i>Lorna Mitchell.</i>	
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Saturday

Main Programme

10:15	Barbarella The bizarre but spectacular (it says here) adventures of a beautiful young astronaut in the 40th century and the characters she meets; including a blind angel, a revolutionary and a megalomaniac. Risqué camp transfer from a comic strip famous for its anaemic pornography, complete with ingenious effects and design. Very much a vehicle for Jane Fonda in the title role, before she got into serious acting.	
10:30		
11:00		
11:30		
12:00	International Comics A discussion of the interactions between comics of different types, as produced in Japan, the USA and Europe. What are their similarities and differences? Why are they different, and how (if at all) do they influence each other? <i>M. Scott (c), S. Mason, H. Payne, P. Wareham, Ashley Watkins.</i>	
12:30		
13:00	Synchromy and Cosmic Zoom A pair of short animated films – see the Programme Book for a more complete description.	
13:30	Science Fiction Foundation Appeal A presentation on the convention charity, explaining what it does and why it is a worthy cause.	£
14:00	The Edges of SF What is the overlap between SF, fantasy, horror and mainstream fiction – SF and fantasy elements now occur outside the field, having entered our culture in many ways. <i>P. Garratt (c), Gill Alderman, Lionel Fanthorpe, Terry Pratchett, Charles Strass.</i>	
14:30		
15:00	The Once and Future Myth A discussion of the use of Celtic mythology, such as the Mabinogion, in modern fantasy. Are authors still finding inspiration in these myths, or should they be turning away from mythology in the search for truly original ideas? <i>D. Baynham (c), M. Cohen, P. Garratt, K. Maud.</i>	
15:30		
16:00	Shocking Liberties A discussion of shocking fiction, considering to what extent authors are expected to shock, what limits exist, and whether one should write with the sole intention to shock. <i>M. Easterbrook (c), Simon Ings, Mary Gentle, Roz Kaveney, David Pringle.</i>	
16:30		
17:00	Hungry Generations How and why do we group writers in generations? Is there a new generation of British SF writers, and if so how are they different from their ancestors? Colin Greenland shakes the family tree to see what falls out. <i>Colin Greenland.</i>	
17:30		
18:00	Back Into the Telephone Box The subject matter of comics: moving away from heroes towards social comment. Is this a good thing? How far should it go? <i>G. Strattmann (c), M. Abbott, R. James, Alex Stewart.</i>	
18:30		
19:00	Canadian Animation Another chance to see the short films <i>Pas de Deux</i> , <i>Synchromy</i> and <i>Cosmic Zoom</i> , plus <i>Dreamflight</i> , all from Canadian animator Norman McClaren.	
19:30		
20:00	Hangfan A quiz that will test the teams' skills in verbal visualisation as well as their general SF and fanish knowledge. Come along and see who gets hanged.	?
20:30		
21:00	SF Myopia A serious discussion of predictions and why they can fail. Is it possible to predict revolutions in technology and philosophy? <i>A. Morris (c), B. Ameringen, Charles Strass, Roz Kaveney.</i>	
21:30		
22:00	Leaks Dave Langford gives us a sneak preview of his short story, <i>Leaks</i> , which is due to be published in August in a <i>Temps</i> anthology. <i>Dave Langford.</i>	
22:30		
23:00	Dr Strangelove A deranged USAF General unleashes atom bombers to attack Russia so as to protect his 'precious bodily fluids' against water fluoridation (finishes 00:40).	
23:30		

Alternative Programme

SF in Europe

A talk with slides about the current state of SF fandom in Eastern Europe, particularly the Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia. How have the political changes in Europe affected fans in these countries?
Bridge Wilkinson.

The Future of SF

Four panellists will discuss the possible future(s) of the genre with the audience. What could happen in the next 30 years?
Geoff Ryman (c), Colin Greenland, David Pringle, Alex Stewart, Charles Strass.

Build a Flyer

Several teams will attempt to immortalise the *Reconnaissance* logo by building a contraption which will fly a specified distance. Marks will be awarded by the judges for style of construction, style of flight, and distance flown. Materials (toilet rolls, helium-filled balloons, cardboard, tissue paper, etc.) will be provided. The rules for the competition are on the rear of this sheet. **Inaugural flights** will take place from 16:30.

Time Police

Ignore the growing rumours about police from the future and come to this press conference. Here, exclusive to this convention, leading scientists will announce a discovery that will **CHANGE THE WORLD**. This entertaining and thought provoking event will be in two parts with an intermission.

Magazines

Why are SF magazines run by individuals and not the big publishing companies? Do authors start their careers by writing for magazines, and if so, are the editors responsible for the appearance of new authors and styles of writing?
P. Weston (c), S. M. Baxter, J. Gilbert, David Pringle, E. Robinson

No Shame Theatre

No Shame is guerrilla theatre. *Mike Ibeji* and other hopeless exhibitionists will perform sketches and monologues that will make you cringe, laugh and groan. Only one thing is certain – you won't be bored.

Hawaii and Fans Across the World Party

Fans Across the World and the Hawaii bid committee entertain you for as long as the drink lasts.

Sunday

Main Programme

10:15	Mad Max II The ex-cop from Mad Max has survived an ecological holocaust and become a wanderer. He is reluctantly persuaded to help the owners of one of the last sources of fuel, who are battling a marauding gang who want it and are prepared to kill for it. Moral: beware of feral children with razor-sharp boomerangs.	
10:30		
11:00		
11:30		
12:00	Filthy Prose This panel will look at parodies (the Lord of the Rings in the style of A. A. Milne ...). It will be a mixture of material prepared in advance, and frantic on-the-spot scribbles.	
12:30	<i>J. Richards (c), Gill Alderman, Colin Greenland, H. Mascetti, Alex Stewart.</i>	
13:00	Zen, Hal or Holly A talk by <i>Nick Larner</i> on the future of computers in fiction and in fact. Computers are a common topic for SF authors from Asimov's UNIVAC to Gibson's AIs. How close are these vision to reality?	
13:30	<i>Nick Larner.</i>	
14:00	Earthdoom! A game of ecological disaster. The world is slowly roasting under the Greenhouse Effect and the team must try to save it ... or perhaps it will be flooded ... or maybe a new Ice Age is starting. An exercise in black humour.	
14:30		
15:00	Why Aren't You at Your Church? A talk by the reverend <i>Lionel Fanthorpe</i> , a prolific SF and fantasy writer, about religion and SF.	
15:30		
16:00	Lionel Fanthorpe.	
16:30	Images of SF A discussion of the films that have been shown over the weekend considering how they influenced SF when they first came out and later when they became known as classics.	
17:00	<i>A. Morris (c), Geoff Ryman, J. Steel, Ashley Watkins.</i>	
17:30	Are Awards Worth Anything? Why do we give awards in SF and what do they mean to those who receive them? How many people vote and how informed are they in their voting - is it all worth while? A discussion between the givers, receivers and the voters.	
18:00	<i>R. Perkins (c), Rox Kaveny, N. Mahoney, J. Richards, Geoff Ryman.</i>	
	Closing Ceremony The committee and guests gather for the end of the convention.	

Alternative Programme

Book Auction

Let *Roger Robinson* and *Brian Ameringen* persuade you to part with your money for those items that are only ever sold at an auction. The convention's usual 10% commission will be donated to the Science Fiction Foundation.



Medieval Weapons in Fantasy and Reality

A talk about the use of medieval weaponry with a live demonstration. How accurate is modern hack-and-slay fantasy? This demonstration will show how these weapons really were used.

Mary Gentle, Dean Wayland, M. Gearing.



Reconnaissance De-Briefing

The business meeting, chaired by *Kathy Westhead*. Air your views on the convention - the programme, hotel, publications, etc. Members of the committee will answer questions about why we did what we did.

K. Westhead (c), R. Meades, J. Steel, J. Stewart, G. Stramann.



The Death of Paper

A discussion of how SF may be presented in the future, considering new media that could replace books, television, etc, as new technology is developed.

S. Davies (c), J. Dallman, Mary Gentle, N. Larner, Charles Sross.



Build A Flyer Rules

1. The flyer must carry an unfolded sheet of card bearing the *Reconnaissance* logo.
2. The time allowed for design and construction of the flyer is one and a half hours.
3. The flyer must travel a horizontal distance of 30 feet.
4. Bonus points will be awarded for the flyer's air of competence, style, grace and artistry (if any).
5. The flyer must be airborne.
6. At least one helium-filled balloon must be used.
7. The flyer must not be thrown.
8. Once the flyer is released, no-one may touch it or enter the space between the sending position and the 30 foot distance limit.
9. All flyers must be named.

The competition will take place in the Alternative Programme at 15:00 on Saturday - further teams are still welcome.

Guess the Weight of Robert

Reconnaissance has adopted the Science Fiction Foundation (through Friends of Foundation) as its charity. Be sure to attend the appeal on behalf of the Foundation on Saturday at 13:30.

During the weekend a competition will be running to guess what the weight of Robert (the Friends of Foundation's collecting box) will be at 12:00 on Sunday. Guesses will be 20p each - why not influence the outcome while you make your guess?

Call at the FoF desk in the Convention Bar to find out more, or to join the Friends.

Cashpoints

Nat West	Opposite the Park Hotel in Queen Street.
Link	In the same block as the Hotel on Queen Street.
Barclays & Link	In Windsor Place, (onto Queen Street, turn left, second road on the left).
TSB	Near the Castle at the end of Queen Street.