

INTERVENTION

THE 1997 BRITISH EASTERCON

28–31 March 1997,

The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, U.K.

INTRODUCTION

This is the **README**, the publication that tells you everything you need to know about Intervention. Please read it before asking questions. If you have questions after reading it, come and ask Ops, which is on the Mezzanine level; just follow the signs. If you lose your ReadMe, you can buy replacements from Registration for 50p while stocks last.

This information was correct when this publication went to press. There will, undoubtedly, be changes, watch the Chinese Wall and other notices for these.

VOLUNTEERS

This convention is run entirely by volunteers, doing it during their holidays. Please remember this in your dealings with convention staff—we're all here to have a good time together. Please remember to be nice to the hotel staff too, they **HAVE** to work over Easter, don't make life harder for them than it has to be.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Every convention needs gophers. "What are gophers?" I hear you cry. These are the people who volunteer to run around doing things at the convention, going for this and going for that. They're very important to the success or failure of a convention. **NO** experience is necessary and it's a good way to meet people and find your way around. Just go to Ops and volunteer—it's easy really. Please volunteer, you'll find it's a fun way to see the con.

FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS

Would volunteer first aiders please make themselves known to us as soon after arrival as possible. They should go to Ops, where they can collect a First Aid badge.

EMERGENCIES

Contact Ops or Hotel Reception if you have an accident or are ill. First Aid is available.

PROBLEMS AT THE CON

As a general rule, should you have a problem at the con that can be resolved by convention staff please go and ask a Committee Member or those nice people in Ops and they will try to help. If they can't, they may be able to point you at someone who can.

BADGE

Please wear your badge at all times. We reserve the right not to replace lost badges, a charge of £1-00 may be levied for replacement of any lost badges. Remember, your badge is your only proof that you are a member of the convention. You will not be allowed access to convention items without your badge.

CHINESE WALL / NEWSLETTER

Intervention is not running a traditional newsletter this year but is trying something different.

We are going to be running a Chinese Wall, where not only official Intervention news will be posted, but anyone wanting to post an

ReadMe!

announcement can do so too. Some basic materials will be provided to enable you to make your announcements. This will be located in BoSh's, the committee reserves the right to remove anything they deem to be defamatory.

We, of course, know nothing about any gorilla [sic] newsletters that may or may not appear.

SEATING

Please note that the front row of seating in all programme areas is reserved for the use of convention staff and Electrical Eggs badge wearers. **AWARDS**

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There will be a ballot box for the Doc Weir award ballot forms at Registration. Please use the voting slip in your membership pack.

CON DESKS

Some of these will be in the Hypostyle. Please see Mark Plummer in the Dealers Room if you want one. Please note that these cannot be secured.

MASQUERADE

If you want to take part in the Masquerade, you must tell Ops who will direct you to the Masquerade organiser. Please ensure you discuss any special tech or audio requirements with the Masquerade organiser **IN ADVANCE**. The masquerade organiser is Alice Lawson.

REGISTRATION

This will be open at the following times:

Thursday	16:00–20:00
Friday	10:00–20:00
Saturday	10:00–18:00
Sunday	10:00–16:00
Monday	10:00–12:00

MEMBERSHIP ON THE DOOR

Whilst we stated that there would be no on the door memberships, we do realise that some fen will not be able to join the con until the day. They will be allowed in at the discretion of the registrations manager and DCM providing someone trusted and at the con can vouch for them. Alternatively possession of a letter of intent to attend—from the committee—will get you in.

Full membership costs £60-00

Full membership with a letter of intent to attend from the committee costs £35-00

Full membership for anyone joining at the unwaged rate with appropriate ID costs £35-00

DAY MEMBERSHIPS

These cost £20-00 a day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and £15-00 on Monday.

They're valid until 09:00 on the day after issue.

DEALERS ROOM

The Dealers Room is in the Pearce Room on the left as you enter the main lounge

This is open:

Friday	14:00–18:00
Saturday	10:00–18:00
Sunday	10:00–18:00
Monday	10:00–14:00

Please do not eat, smoke, or drink in the Dealers Room unless you are a dealer.

There will be signing sessions in the Main lounge each day, check for names of authors and times of sessions on the Chinese Wall. If you're an author and you'd like to take part in a signing session, please let us know.

ART SHOW

The Art Show is in the Empire room and will be open as follows:

Saturday	10:00–18:00
Sunday	10:00–14:00

The Art Show shuts two hours before the Art Auction at 15:00 on Sunday. The Art Auction will be held in the Boardroom. The Art Show will not reopen after that time.

BOOK AUCTION

If you have books to be auctioned, please give them to Ops, clearly labelled with the name of the seller and where the proceeds should go; the seller, good cause, elsewhere. The con will take a 10% commission for private items.

BoSh's

This is located in the Derby room opposite the Real Ale bar and is intended to be a friendly relaxing place for all fans there will be silly

games, fannish readings, the cake burning competition and a fannish history and memorabilia display. Please go along—you'll have a good time.

THE CAKE BURNING COMPETITION AND BRIAN BURGESS MEMORIAL PORK PIE RACE

Anyone wanting to take part in the cake burning competition please check in at BoSh's on Friday or Saturday morning and would anyone wanting to take part in the Brian Burgess memorial pork pie race please check in at BoSh's on the Friday or Saturday.

PARTY, PARTY!

Little, Brown Publishers invites you to join many of their top authors to celebrate the Orbit List and the publication of *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* edited by John Clute and John Grant, *Maxies Demon* by Michael Scott Rohan and *Across The Flame* by Jonathan Wylie.

Compiled by a team of experts with unparalleled collective experience in the genre, *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* covers literature, cinema, television, opera, art, comics and more. Hailed by *Publishing News* as "the answer to every fantasy reader's dreams... The range of entries is astonishing and the scholarship on display is both impressive and user-friendly," The encyclopedia is the first of its kind and a remarkable event in the publishing calendar.

The party is from 21:00–22:00 pm on Friday 28th March in the Main Lounge of the Aledphi Hotel. All Welcome. There will be a prize draw with a chance to win a copy of the encyclopedia (all proceeds from the prize draw to go to the Richard Evans Fund).

Legend will be holding a party at BoSh's on Saturday 29th March from 19:30–21:00 pm. All are welcome.

WORKSHOP ROOMS

There are four workshop rooms, two on the first floor (rooms 155 and 169) and two the second floor (rooms 255 and 269).

SEMINAR WORKSHOP

Andy Sawyer of the Science Fiction Foundation and the University of Liverpool will be running a seminar stream. Do please drop in

and see him.

24 HOUR VIDEO ROOM / SF THEATRE OF LIVERPOOL ROOM

There will be a 24 hour video room, except between 11:00 and 17:30 on Saturday when it will be a drop-in room for the SF Theatre of Liverpool when there will be videos of their past performances and they will be willing to chat to any interested people.

COSTUMING WORKSHOP

There will be costume workshop space available on Saturday and Sunday.

FILKING ROOM

One room will be devoted to Filking every evening from 23:00–09:00 the following morning

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

There will be an introductory 'mingling' session for those who want to participate in the Writers' Workshop on Friday at midday. This will be followed by a 3–4 hour session later on in the weekend.

If you have any queries, please go and speak to Ops, or alternatively go and 'Bug Janet Barron.'

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Anyone who needs to use mains powered equipment in programme items must first have it PAT tested by someone from tech before it can be plugged in.

WEAPONS POLICY

We will not allow real weapons at Intervention under any circumstances.

No realistic replica weapons are allowed, except as part of a Masquerade costume, and then only for the duration of the Masquerade.

No projectile weapons of any kind are allowed.

The Chief Steward, Gary Stratmann, has the final decision on what constitutes a weapon, and he, his deputies or the committee may confiscate anything, at any time, for any reason. He will reserve the right to test any replica/toy weapon on its owner if there is a dispute as to its safety.

CON SECURITY

As at Sou'Wester, we have arranged for the hotel to get a security firm in to provide stern persons at the entry points to the convention in order to dissuade those who shouldn't from attempting to enter.

Many of you will be aware of unfortunate incidents at Eastercons in the past, and these are not just local to Liverpool. Thieves do seem to be targeting conventions more regularly.

You are all asked to be vigilant and keep an eye on your valuables and your bags.

Please do not leave anything unattended for any length of time whatsoever.

SERIOUS WARNING TIME: UNATTENDED BAGGAGE

Whilst it is *extremely* unlikely that Intervention would be the target of a terrorist attack, we feel it prudent to issue a warning in the light of events in the past year at Docklands and Manchester, among others. There is no need for hysteria on this point, but in the interests of your safety any unattended bags whose owners cannot be found will be treated as suspect devices and action will be taken accordingly.

The committee request that Intervention members please keep their bags and parcels with them at all times; this will also reduce help the risk of theft.

Should you come across a bag that you regard as unattended please undertake the following procedure:

1. Do not touch, or move it.
2. Look for identifying labels or badges. They may tell you which fan owns it
3. If the owner remains untraceable, Alert a member of the convention committee or security. Give them a description of the bag and its location.
4. Get out of the area having alerted the member of con staff, unless they advise you differently. Take no further action unless directed to by a member of the convention staff, or by the Hotel staff.
5. In the unlikely event of an evacuation being ordered (which will come from the hotel), please switch off any mobile phones immediately and leave as instructed by hotel or convention staff.

Any convention member perpetrating a deliberate hoax will be thrown out of the con and may have to deal with the police.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Please turn your mobile phones off *before* entering any programme item; there is nothing more irritating than hearing someone's phone ringing in the item you are attending.

Should you forget and your phone does ring during an item please leave and answer the phone outside the programme area.

SMOKING POLICY

Please look for signs which will indicate where you may or may not smoke.

We strongly discourage smoking in the programme areas. If you must smoke, there will be a smoking section in: Main 1, Main 2 and the Board Room.

You may smoke in BoSh's (except during the cake burning competition).

Smoking is not allowed in the following:

- The Dealers Room. (unless you are a Dealer)
- The Crosby room keg beer bar which is intended to be a no smoking bar.
- The Art Show.
- The Sefton Room because it's a food service area.

Programme participants may smoke in their items.

In workshop and syndicate rooms, filking sessions and costuming programme, smoking is at the discretion of the organiser.

If you are working at the con, you may smoke in the area you are working in at the discretion of the shift manager in charge of that area.

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

The Video policy is quite simple. There will be no video taping of events without WRITTEN permission, (copied to the Green room) from ALL participants in that event.

Flash must not be used at all in the masquerade, a photo opportunity will be organised.

CORKAGE WARNING

Remember, hotels make money by selling accommodation, food and drink. Please do not attempt to bypass this procedure or enter into competition with them. The convention will not support you in the event you get caught.

POSTERS AND SIGNS

The hotel has recently undergone a costly refurbishment, and we do not want to damage the fabric of the hotel. Posters and signs may be fixed to glass, wood and metal only, using BluTack only, but NEVER EVER TO WALL-PAPER. Please don't obscure the hotel's or the convention's signs.

HOTEL PROBLEMS

If you have any unresolvable problems with the hotel, please contact Ops, who will contact our Hotel liaison team for you.

POOL AREA & HEALTH CLUB

This is run by a separate company to the one that runs the hotel and a charge of somewhere between £2.50-£5.00 per day is levied depending on facilities required, neither Ops nor the hotel reception can change this so please don't give them a hard time.

HOTEL FOOD & DRINK

Convention food and drink will be served in the Sefton room. Cash food will be available in the Sefton Room from 11:30-15:00 and from 18:30-23:00. Vegetarian dishes will be available. Tea, coffee and filled rolls are available all day.

Breakfast will be served from 08:00-11:00.

The bar in the Sefton Room will be open from Thursday evening and has a stock of soft drinks, diet drinks, Coke and Pepsi. The bar in the Crosby Room will stock real ales and scrumpy cider

THE HOTEL CAR PARKING

Parking your car in the Adelphi hotel car park will cost £5.00 per day or £15.00 per weekend

PHARMACY

There are chemists in the city centre; should you require one out of normal shopping hours, either the hotel reception will be able to help or there will be a list in Ops.

CASH MACHINES

There are most varieties of cash machines within a couple of minutes walk of the Adelphi in the city centre.

DAYS OUT

An interesting time can be had down at the Albert Dock, where there is a German coffee house and a maritime museum as well as a large floating foam representation of the British Isles.

There is also a Beatles tour available. More details are available from the Merseyside tourist office.

You could, of course, try the Smithdown Thirteen, a pub crawl from the end of Penny Lane back down into Liverpool city centre via some of the most 'interesting' pubs in Liverpool. Just see John Richards or Phil Plumbly for details. Please bring personal injury waiver forms with you!

We are trying to arrange a Merseyside Tourist office desk, should you wish to learn about things touristy to do in Liverpool, or want to arrange independent accommodation they will be able to help.

Where to Eat in Liverpool

See Programme book for more details.

Algarve, 18a Stanley Street, Portuguese; 236-0206, 255-1314; Armadillo, 31 Mathew Street, French; 236-4123; Asha, 79 Bold Street, Indian; 709-6925; Balti House, 18 Stanley Street, Indian; 236-3456; Bechers Brook, 29a Hope Street, French; 707-0005; Casa Bella, 25 Victoria Street, Italian; 258-1800, Pizzeria only 14:00-17:00; full menu outside these hours; Casa Italia, 36 Stanley Street, Italian; 227-5774; Chung's Hing Wah, 46-48 Nelson Street, Chinese; 709-5773, Don Pepe, 19-21 Victoria Street, Spanish; 231-1909; El Macho, 23 Hope Street, Mexican; 708-6644; Eureka, 7 Myrtle Parade, Greek; 709-7225, Closes early; inexpensive; diners' own booze allowed; Far East, 27 Berry Street, Chinese; 709-6072, 709-3141; Indian Delight, 83 Renshaw Street, Indian; 709-1722; Jenny's, Fenwick Street, Seafood; 236-0332; Jung Wah, 36 Nelson Street, Chinese; 709-1224; Kebab House, 22 Hardman Street, Greek; 709-4885; La Grande Bouffe, 48a Castle Street, French; 236-3375; Master Chef, 57a Renshaw Street, Indian; 709-

3275, Unlicensed, so take own booze; Sunnyland Slims, 45 Hardman Street, 709-2372, Tapas bar, but not especially Spanish; Tito's, 41 Slater Street, French; 707-2982, No cheques or credit cards, generous helpings, whole pheasant a speciality; Valparaiso, 4 Hardman Street, South American, 708-6036; Villa Italia, 36 Stanley Street, Italian pizza and pasta; 236-1040; Yuet Ben, 1-3 Upper Duke Street, Chinese; 709-5772, Zorba's, 1 Leece Street, Greek; 709-0190, Gargantuan mezedes recommended

Where to Drink in Liverpool

See Programme Book for more details.

Anderson's Piano Bar, Exchange Street. Beers: Cains, Theakstons, plus Guests, German Weissbiers. Good food including Chinese dishes; Bonapartes, Clarence Street. Beers: Vaux, Wards. Late Licence until 12:30am; The Brewery, Berry Street. Beers: Various Guests, plus House Brew. Close to China Town; Cracke, Rice Street. Beers: Cains, Pedigree, Phoenix, plus Guests (including Wobbly Bob). Difficult to find: behind police station on Hope Street. My personal favourite; Everyman Bistro, Hope Street. Beers: Various Guests. Excellent food, with good vegetarian selection; Flying Picket, Hardman Street. Beers: Coach House, Jennings. Bar in Unemployed Resource Centre; Philharmonic, Hope Street. Beers: Pedigree, Tetley, plus Guests. Wonderful carved wood bar and ceiling, open fire; noted for its gents' toilets; Poste House, Cumberland Street. Beers: Cains, plus Guests. Home of Scouse; free lunchtime buffet at weekends; Roscoe Head, Roscoe Street. Beers: Ind Coope, Jennings. Good atmosphere; Ship & Mitre, Dale Street. Beers: Cains, plus Guests (up to eight). Best real ale pub in the city; Swan, Wood Street. Beers: Cains, Phoenix, plus Guests. Loud pub with rock jukebox; Vine, Lime Street. Beers: Walkers, Tetley. Nearest pub to the Adelphi Hotel; Wetherspoons, Charlotte Row. Beers: Cains, Theakstons, plus Guests. Modern pub with food served all day; good wheelchair access; White Star (Quinn's), Rainford Gardens. Guests: Bass, Cains, plus Guests. Occasional beer festivals [Ed: Favourite haunt of local *Babylon 5* fans?]

The Programme at a Glance

Friday 28 March 1997

Time	MAIN I	MAIN II	BoS's	BOARD ROOM
12:00				Writers' Workshop Mingling Session
13:00	Opening Ceremony			
14:00		Pundits		15 (Hundred) To 1
15:00	A History of The SF Theatre of Liverpool	SF: The Year In Review		Future Slang: Inventing A New Language
16:00		Do You Think That They Will Think That His Arm Is Permanently Stuck in That Position?	Intervention: Any Questions?	Starting A Collection: Books
17:00	Wait Up			Regional Dialects In SF
18:00	GoH: Dave Langford			
19:00	Set up And Run Through			Newspeak: Vocabulary And Imagination
20:00	SF Theatre of Liverpool in Performance		Ramsey Campbell's Haunted Liverpool	Expanding The Universe Within
21:00				Making Trouble For Fun (And Profit?)
22:00			Opening Night Party	The Shipping Forecast
23:00	An Experiment in Time			

Saturday 29 March 1997

Time	MAIN I	MAIN II	BoSh's	BOARD ROOM
10:00	Messages From Starfleet: FTL Comms	Call My Bluff		Business
11:00	Film Premier Tokoloshe	The Fantasy Encyclopaedia	Good Morning	A Critical Language For Comics
12:00		The Book Auction I	Kaffeeklatsch	Viking Trade Routes
13:00	If We Could Talk To The Animals... (The Theory of Mind) Report On SETI		Cake Burning	Adaptation: Preserving The Message...
14:00		Why Should We Care What They Think?		Translation: A Threat To Native Literature
15:00	An Introduction to Tech	Where are we headed? Trends in bio-tech. Forgotten Futures		BSFA: AGM
16:00	Set Up And Run Through Waff Up		Meritocracy Debate	Will the Keyboard Kill the Love Letter?
17:00				Starting A Collection: Comics
18:00	GoH: Brian W Aldiss			
19:00			Legend Party	Why Don't Fans Believe In UFOs
20:00	Concert			Peter Weston on James Blish
21:00			United Fans Fund auction	Are There Universal Truths
22:00				The Shipping Forecast
23:00	Bladerunner			

Sunday 30 March 1997

Time	MAIN I	MAIN II	BoSh's	BOARD ROOM
10:00	Film	Pictionary		Business
11:00	(Roger Corman's Frankenstein Unbound)	Tales Of First Contact	Good Morning	Friends Of Foundation: AGM
12:00	The Bid Session	The Publication Game	Kaffeeklatch	
13:00			Fan history: Culture or Claptrap	How To Bid at an Art Auction
14:00	Cyberdome	Telepathy: A Practical Demonstration.		Set Up For Art Auction
15:00	Waff Up	How Green Was My Warp Drive	Whither Worldcon?	The Art Auction
16:00	GoH: Octavia E Butler			
17:00	Set Up			Foundation: What is it? What's it for?
18:00	and		Party	Adaptation: The Medium IS The Message
19:00	Run Through			Starting A Collection: Television
20:00	Masquerade			The Queen Vs. Internet
21:00	David B Wake's Live Computer Game		Chog's class	Nation Can't Speak Peace Unto Nation.
22:00	Masquerade Judging			The Shipping Forecast
23:00	Film (Run)			

Monday 31 March 1997

Time	MAIN I	MAIN II	BoSh's	BOARD ROOM
10:00	Film Premier	Openings		Business
11:00	(LEXX)	ping: Anthony Burgess	Good Morning	Turing, Voight-Kampf And Other Tests
12:00	Jim Burn's Slide Show		Kaffeeklatch	Intuition: Opening Doors
13:00	Getting To Mars for \$100	The Book Auction II		Starting A Collection: Films
14:00	SF: The Year To Come	Pundits	Brian Burgess Memorial Pork Pie Race	Business
15:00	Wall Up			
16:00	GoH: Jon Bing			
17:00				Art Auction II
18:00	Finale: Do We Want To Be Alone?		Greg and Mike Explode	
19:00	Closing Ceremony			



