

Second Progress Report

Corflu

CONCORDE

**Corflu Concorde (Corflu 38),
The Mercure Holland House Hotel,
Redcliffe Hill, Bristol BS1 6SQ**



***NOTE NEW DATES!!
5th-7th NOVEMBER 2021***

**FAAn Awards Ceremony and Corflu Business Meeting
Sunday 28 March 2021, by Zoom: time to be determined**

ORGANISING TEAM

Rob Jackson, Chair & Hotel Liaison

Keith Freeman, Memberships and Treasurer

Sandra Bond, Publications

Nic Farey, FAAn Award Administrator

Bill Burns, Webmaster

Ian Millsted, Local Agent

Pat Virzi, US Agent

To be agreed (volunteers welcome): Programme; Virtual Corflu; Auction; Tech Ops

WELCOME!

Rob Jackson

When we (I mean the Corflu Concorde organising team) sent out PR1, we (and by this “we” I mean pretty much the whole world, unless you are down a nuclear bunker or marooned on a desert island) were wrestling with massive uncertainty about how quickly we would be out from under the stormclouds of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Then, I said Plan A was to stick with March 26th-28th; Plan B was sometime in the summer; and Plan C was to postpone by a full year, with subsequent Corflus also slipping a year. Of course, we might have guessed... a fourth option came into view, which came to be known in recent correspondence as Plan B2.

Normally, the group assumption is that Corflus have to be in the first half of the year. But these aren't normal times. Murray Moore did a bit of lateral thinking and asked why we couldn't hold Corflu Concorde in the autumn. Part of his motivation was to attend two British cons in one trip, as Novacon 50 is to be held on the 12th-14th of November next year. At first, my thought was “don't be daft...” but the more I thought about it the more advantages came to mind. Like:

- Enough delay for vaccinations or other countermeasures against COVID-19 to be well established
- Hence, the best possible chance for long-haul travel to be up and running again without expensive, frustrating or impractical quarantines
- As Murray says, the option for overseas visitors (and UK fans should they choose) to make it two cons in one trip
- No need to delay the next mooted Corflus to 2023 and 2024 respectively. Holding Tommy Ferguson's Belfast Corflu in Spring 2024 might reduce the number of US fans who attend, due to competition from the Glasgow Worldcon in August 2024 – we know Glasgow hasn't won the bid yet, but there is no competition on the horizon. Many Americans would be unlikely to do 2 trips in 1 year (unless their names are Bill and Mary Burns).
- Though November 2021 would be far too late for a FAAn Awards ceremony to honour the work done by fan editors, writers, artists and webmasters in 2020, we have all got so used to online events via Zoom, MS Teams or (insert videoconferencing platform of choice here) that an online event on the date we originally planned seems fitting.
- We can also hold the Corflu “Business Meeting” (the endorsement of plans for the next year's Corflu) online then, to give the plans for the 2022 event the go-ahead
- Though some initial concerns were expressed about British fans having to choose between two cons a week apart, there has been some informal canvassing of opinion about this, and most fans who have commented were in three categories: (1) those who were probably only going to come to one of the two cons anyway; (2) those who are keen enough to attend both come what may; or (3) are only likely to make one of the two due to lack of time or money, but philosophically accept the

plus points outlined above. No squawks of anguish or howls of rage have so far been received...

Here are some of the comments made by a lot of thoughtful folk while this was being discussed:

Ian Sorensen

I have read the Corflu PR and the range of options. I honestly think the only viable one is a postponement of a year, with much massaging of bruised egos for Ulrika and Tommy. Even if we get a vaccine this year it will not be available to everyone until they can ramp up production and that seems to take many months. So, with flight bookings a problem, I doubt a summer con is possible. I agree with you that we need to have Americans and Brits able to mix in person to make it a successful Corflu. (I really don't like online conventions - can't talk to people in a natural manner (for me) and just sit feeling frustrated.)

Claire Brialey

Now that you say you're rather attracted to the idea of a November 2021 Corflu, I want to sound a loud note of caution. It might seem great for overseas visitors to be able to attend two small British cons, each with their own individual flavour, in the space of a week or two. But for British attendees, proximity to Novacon is potentially far more of a problem than to Eastercon. It could very much be the London bus problem: you wait for ages for a fun convention where you expect to see a lot of your fannish friends, and then two come along at once...

Quite a lot of people might not have sufficient money, time, and/or energy to really relish the idea (particularly given that it'll only be a month and a half before Christmas) and some might be forced into a hard choice between one or the other. If a few fans decided to skip an Eastercon because they'd rather go to Corflu, their friends at Eastercon would notice but the con wouldn't. For Novacon that's a bit different - and it being Novacon 50, which we'd all like to be able to be a big deal, it could really look like moving into their territory.

Other British fans might disagree with that, of course, in some cases because they have no interest in Novacon anyway. And maybe you wouldn't mind if some Brits who wouldn't usually attend Corflu outside the UK decided not to come to this one because they're going to Novacon. But can I suggest you have a quiet word with people like Caroline Mullan and Ian Millsted and Ian Sorensen and Christina Lake, and see what they think?

I know that Covid uncertainties make even contingency planning more difficult, and I don't want to be discouraging to you either as you're putting in the extra work on this - which is the other reason I thought a private reply might be better. Hope that helps rather than not!

Nic Farey

(...) There's now a "Plan B2" which suggests that Corflu Concorde could take place in November, the week before the also-deferred Novacon 50. Now this has possible advantages for overseas visitors being able to attend both events, although the converse argument is that attendance of either convention might be affected in that those who may be skinter than others would be forced to choose one or the other - there's undoubtedly more overlap between the two than there would be between a Corflu and an Eastercon, which, when the former has been held in the UK at the more typical Spring date, has also been timed close to

Eastercon for the benefit of Forn Travelers. Given my personal inability to attend the event whenever it is, I don't have an 'orse in the event timing race, but with my FAAn awards admin titfer firmly in place I must consider the implications.

My conclusion is that any delay or deferral in the original date should not affect the FAAn voting window nor the announcement of the awards themselves. This is especially true if "Plan B2" goes into effect, since it seems fuckin' ridiculous to hold off awards for work done in 2020 until almost the end of the following year.

Rich Coad

I like Plan B2. I've wanted to get to a Novacon again, since Novacon 3 was my first British convention, so I'm all in favor of early November, pandemic willing. The date also means airfares to the UK should be lower than in the peak season, though given all the changes the airlines are going through, that may not be true anymore.

Ian Millsted

Plan A looks unlikely at this point. I can't see getting the all clear in time for people to book flights etc. I like the plan 2B but that would be term time and I would be limited to being around Friday evening to Sun pm only.

Ian Sorensen (again)

Thinking about the demographic that attends both Corflu and Novacon, I'd say running them close together would be a good plan. Although only a proportion will be retired and thus not constrained by annual leave allowance, I reckon a good number would be able to take the 10 days required for the double con. My only concern is that Novacon 50 is expected to attract a larger than usual membership and an influx, or Corflux, of Americans might make for accommodation problems in Nottingham.

Given all the other contributing factors I'd agree that a November 21 date will be the best solution if the vaccine and other mitigations work as expected by Dr Fauci and the UK medical officer.

Claire Brialey (again)

It's not just money, of course, but the combination of money, time, and/or energy. We would do both, despite all that albeit subject to vaccine and associated safety, because missing either in safe circumstances would be inconceivable; if the other Brits don't see any problem then clearly I'm worrying unnecessarily...

Tommy Ferguson

I'd planned to go to Novacon and two weekends away is a bit of a stretch – think I'd be at Corflu (to see all you wonderful people!) and would give Novacon a miss. That would make me sad. But I'm sure y'all cheer me up! Go for it.

Keith Freeman

I wasn't planning on going to Novacon, despite it being the 50th... but can see the problem for a few(?) UK fans (and it's possible that some non-UK fans will have problems getting enough time off work to attend both – but any other plan would preclude them getting to Novacon anyway without making two trips). Despite this problem I think Plan B2 is definitely the best. We've said the decision will be made in December but I think it's looking more and more that Plan A will have to be abandoned.

Points already made, plus a couple more:

- (1) Cheaper air fares (maybe)*
- (2) Possibility of attending Novacon*
- (3) Weather in September is usually roughly the same as March (which leads on to)*
- (4) What will the USA contingent do in the week between Corflu and Novacon? Can we arrange a "Spare Bedroom Roster"? 4 or 5 days' hotel costs could mount up...*
- (5) Have I missed other points?*

Caroline Mullan

I think the further into the future Corflu is pushed the more robust the decision is likely to be. Without having researched this, I notice just this week that Australia has put the US on a travel advisory, and UK insurance companies are beginning to write Covid exclusions into travel insurance. I suspect that people won't be booking travel over the next few months, pushes future travel decisions into the new year at the earliest, and pretty much guarantees further business failures in the industry over the winter, reducing capacity and raising prices for 2021. I don't think planning for the first half of next year is likely to be viable under these conditions.

Without having any skin in the game, I like the B2 idea of one week before Novacon in 2021. But I think it's a heroic assumption that trans-Atlantic travel and hotel capacity will have recovered sufficiently to be available at reasonable prices by then, and that the C plan for spring of 2022 is more likely to be viable.

I guess I'm saying that it's fine to decide now not to try for spring 2021, but best not to decide what to try for next until December at the earliest.

Ted White (in response to Caroline)

Total agreement.

Alice Lawson (co-chair of Novacon 50)

I agree with Ian that numbers for N50 may be higher than normal and we may have to cap. How many people roughly are we looking at that would go to N50 because they are at Corflu the week before?

Rob Jackson (reply to Alice)

Not a huge number – possibly 10 or so of the US fannish visitors? Likely to be fewer because of the travel issues, even if we do delay as long as possible, and travel is once again feasible. Though we have 30 US/Canadian attending members already, who knows how easy things will be in the event; and of those who do make it, a fair number may not be able to afford the time or money for the longer trip. (US employers are a lot less generous about annual leave than UK or European ones.) And if you have to cap, so be it – we will just have to accept that you have to say No after a certain date or attendance level.

Since Caroline and Ted's cautious viewpoints, we have had the encouraging news about vaccines, and felt that postponing for a full year might lose the thread of the Corflu tradition somewhat. The feeling of the meeting is overall in favour of the November option!

We were starting to get hints that many venues suitable for weddings and other social events were being booked up rapidly for celebrations postponed from 2020. Not least – my own daughter Venetia and her fiancé Simon had been due to marry on March 22 this year but had to postpone at 24 hours' notice. At first they booked 15 November this year, but when that was also ruled out, they went for next summer – and found that their venue was so heavily booked already that they had to accept a midweek date!

As the Mercure Holland may also be popular at weekends with couples arranging weddings, I decided not to waste time in arranging to change the date. I wrote to them like this:

“As we all know all too well, we are struggling to make events happen at all, let alone be successful just now. However, the picture is becoming a little clearer. It is now evident that a return to normal is a definite prospect with the advent of vaccinations and then increased confidence about long-haul travel, but we are all having to be incredibly patient.

“Although vaccinations are soon to be available, it is very doubtful that we will be back to normal by Corflu Concorde’s original booked dates of 26-28 March next year. The fortnight’s quarantine is most likely still to be in place, and around half our members at the moment are from the US or Canada. So even if travel within the UK is once again possible and gatherings of say 50 people are allowed, neither of which are guaranteed, it would be both a social failure for the convention and a financial failure for the hotel if we were to stick to the original date.

“We would like to rebook for the weekend of 5-7 November 2021, if possible. This is far enough in the future that vaccination programmes should be well established and long-haul travel should be easier once again. This date has a particular advantage, as it is one week before another convention for science fiction enthusiasts, at your sister hotel in Nottingham, which is hosting Novacon 50 the following weekend. This will allow US visitors the chance to make a double holiday of their trip by attending both conventions, and hopefully bringing in a few extra visitors for your colleagues in Nottingham!”

I am delighted to report that the hotel events team were happy to rebook and are looking forward to seeing us. (They are probably looking forward to having any visitors at all!)

HOTEL BOOKING

Once we are over the Christmas break and into the early spring, we will finalise booking processes, how you make reservations and ensure our special conference rates, and so on – this will be confirmed in the next Progress Report.

A reminder that our room rates are £100.00 per room per night bed and breakfast single occupancy; £110 per room per night bed and breakfast double occupancy (i.e. £55 per person). Rates quoted by UK hotels are inclusive of any tax.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Attending memberships are now £50.00 or \$60.00 till 31 December 2020. We originally planned to review these rates at the end of November, but because of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 we have decided to delay any rate rise till at least the end of 2020. Rates may well rise thereafter, so join early!

Supporting memberships will be £15.00 or \$20.00 throughout.

UK or rest of the world: Payments via PayPal (£ sterling) to jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net; or by post in £ sterling cheques payable to Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH, UK.

Email: concorde@corflu.org (personal address robjackson60@gmail.com).

USA: Payments in US\$ via PayPal to Pat Virzi at <https://paypal.me/PatVirzi>.

Please send your postal and email address details with payment.

Advance information (Progress Reports and other details) will be sent by email unless specifically requested. Publications at the convention will be printed and mailed by post to those who do not attend. Personal information will be held on computer but shared with no other agency.

Front cover: clip art by kind courtesy of John Purcell's ferreting skills

2021 FAAn AWARDS VOTING AND ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY SCHEDULE (PLAGUE VERSION)

Nic Farey, FAAn Awards Administrator

The Fanzine Activity Achievement (FAAn) awards, fanzine fandom's own honors, will once again be voted for and presented in 2021 for work first published in 2020. Typically the awards have been announced after the Sunday banquet at the Corflu convention, which for 2021 was due to be held in March in Bristol, UK. However, due to we-all-know-what, the convention won't take place at that time. The organizers are committed to an in-person rather than a virtual event, with the exception of the awards announcement (and consideration of future bids for the con).

The timeline will be as follows:

Saturday January 9, 2021

On, or perhaps even a little before this date, *The Incomplete Register 2020* will be issued, containing the ballot form and voting instructions, as well as listings of qualifying zines, fanwriters, fanartists, loccers etc known to the administrator. (See below for further explanation.) This marks the start of the official voting period.

Voting Method

Each category will have five slots on the ballot form to record your choices. A first-place choice in any category will get a "bonus point" toward their vote total, i.e. 2 points; all others will get 1 point. The "bonus point" in the voting form below is marked "Top Choice."

Voters do NOT have to complete all slots or categories. This includes the possibility that you'd rather not have any zine or individual get the "bonus point", in which case you can leave the first slot blank, although this would restrict you to four choices.

Votes may be submitted by post or by email; for email, either append a filled-in version of the voting form as an attachment, or send a list indicating your preferences. For an email list, any first choices should be indicated as such.

Friday March 12 2021 (midnight PST)

Voting ends. Ballots submitted must be received by this point, by whatever means they are sent.

Sunday March 28, 2021 (time TBD)

Awards ceremony, which will occur online (via Zoom or similar means), hosted by Jerry Kaufman, after which the "results issue" of TIR containing full voting numbers will be distributed.

The Incomplete Register

Apart from the official ballot, this is also a voters' guide listing the fanzines and contributors for 2020 that I'm aware of, and hence will inevitably be "incomplete". Voters are in no way restricted to the contents of these lists – all votes received will be taken in good faith.

Voting is open to anyone with an interest in fanzines; you do not have to be a member of Corflu or anything else.

To qualify for a FAAn award, a fanzine should have appeared in the calendar year 2020 (and its cover is thus also qualifying); an individual should have had work which first appeared in a zine published in 2020; a website should have been updated during the year.

Ballot categories are:

Fanzine Categories:

Best Genzine; Best Perzine; Best Special Publication/One-shot

Individual Categories:

Best Fanwriter; Best Fanartist; Best Letterhack (the Harry Warner Jr. award)

Other Categories:

Best Fanzine Cover; Best Fanzine-related Website

THE CORFLU FIFTY

Rob Jackson
Erratum

Last issue I forgot we had not one, but two, guests at Corflu Heatwave last March. Tommy Ferguson was chosen first and travelled further in a more complicated journey, so our other guest, Howard Waldrop, who lived nearby and whose attendance was easy to organise, slipped my brain in a Senior Moment. Apologies to Howard and others who set up his attendance; we loved seeing him at the con. The revised list is below.

Past Corflu Fifty guests

2008	Steve & Elaine Stiles	Las Vegas, NV
2009	Curt Phillips	Seattle, WA
2010	Earl Kemp	Winchester, UK
2011	Dave Hicks	Sunnyvale, CA
2012	Shelby Vick	Henderson, NV
2013	Rob Hansen	Portland, OR
2014	Dan & Lynn Steffan	Richmond, VA
2015	Geri Sullivan	Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
2016	Grant Canfield	Chicago, IL
2017	Pete Young	Woodland Hills, CA
2018	Paul & Cas Skelton	Toronto, Canada
2019	Steve Jeffery	Rockville, MD
2020	Tommy Ferguson	College Station, TX
2020	Howard Waldrop	College Station, TX



CORFLU CONCORDE MEMBERSHIP LIST

Keith Freeman

Correct up to 28 November 2020; listed alphabetically, with membership numbers and supporting/attending status alongside. Currently 38 attending and 11 supporting members.

41	A	Mowgli Assor	46	S	Mike Meara
29	S	Karen Babich	47	S	Pat Meara
32	A	James Bacon	27	A	Ian Millsted
3	A	Tom Becker	4	A	Murray Moore
26	A	Doug Bell	5	A	Mary Ellen Moore
13	A	Claire Brialey	49	A	Caroline Mullan
41	A	Mowgli Assor	15	A	John Nielsen-Hall
45	S	John D. Berry	39	A	Ulrika O'Brien
37	A	Bill Burns	8	A	Mark Olson
38	A	Mary Burns	2	A	spike
7	S	Jim Caughran	11	S	Curt Phillips
9	A	Rich Coad	14	A	Mark Plummer
33	S	Nic Farey	30	A	John Purcell
34	S	J. L. Farey	31	A	Valerie Purcell
24	A	Doug Faunt	19	S	Dave Redd
10	A	Tommy Ferguson	28	A	Mark W. Richards
23	A	Keith Freeman	40	S	Heath Row
35	A	Lucy Huntzinger	42	A	Nigel Rowe
22	A	Rob Jackson	20	A	Paul Skelton
43	A	Jerry Kaufman	21	A	Cas Skelton
25	A	Christina Lake	36	A	Geri Sullivan
12	A	Dave Langford	48	A	Peter Sullivan
16	S	Robert Lichtman	44	A	Suzanne Tompkins
17	A	Ian Maule	6	A	Pat Virzi
18	A	Janice Maule	1	A	Ted White

