

TAKE THE LEAP

Progress Report #2

COR41U

LAS VEGAS



Gold Coast casino and resort

FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 3 2024

FUELED BY CHEAP PISH AND FANAC

NEWS

The main announcement here is an **Attending Membership rate increase**, effective October 1, to \$120 (£95 / €110). Vegas, while generally possessing excellent facilities and experience for event running, isn't the cheapest location - the Sunday banquet alone accounts for more than half of the attending membership fee, although with this increase it'll be a mere tad under 50%. We're not ruling out a further possible hike (as well as a potential increase in supporting - but not virtual - membership) on January 1 as the budget firms up even more. Although we've heard complaints about the supporting rate already being high, those members do get the full convention package, and by then we should have the contents of that fairly well nailed down, and we'd like to make the goodie bag as impressive as we can.

Nic Farey

RANDOMLY IN THIS PR:

News: Attending Membership rate increase effective October 1 (page 1)

Updated membership list (page 5)

Programming notes by Sandra Bond (page 4)

Discord update by Claire Brialey (page 2)

More possible excursions (page 2)

Miscellanea (here and there)

Membership info and hotel booking (back page)

EATS!

We'll continue to recommend <https://vegas.eater.com> as an excellent resource, as we're not about to list the thousands of Vegas restaurants. It's likely, though, that we'll provide a little detail of what's available at the Gold Coast itself, as well as the Rio next door and the Palms across the street.

You can, of course, ask any team member for personal recommendations - in fact I reckon we'll publish a list in PR3, shall we?

TEAM NEWS

We're very pleased to add **Jacq Monahan** to the consuete management team.

MORE EXCURSION POSSIBILITIES

Rich Coad took us mildly to task for not mentioning the recently opened **Punk Rock Museum**, which he's keen to visit - it's located conveniently just south of downtown, next door to a fully nude strip club (Little Darlings), which we're fairly sure had no effect on his enthusiasm.

<https://www.thepunkrockmuseum.com/>

Also newly opened in the center of the Strip is The Museum of Illusions, and across the street from that, The Paradox Museum:

<https://moilasvegas.com/>

<https://www.paradoxmuseumlasvegas.com/>

THAT DISCORD THING

by Claire Brialey

Or so Nic describes it, in a way that probably reflects the mood of some of the rest of you. And I confess I'm feeling pretty tired and downbeat myself just at the moment – not at all the way I want to be thinking about Corflu, never mind that whole 'VEGAS, baby!' vibe we might otherwise be aiming for – so this isn't an attempt to convert you all to exuberant enthusiasm and praise.

That seems a bit excessive anyway, even factoring in British reserve an' all that. I mean, Discord's just a way to chat to people (mostly in text, although it works quite well for voice and video chats these days too). Lots of you will be familiar with those, and Discord isn't a new innovation for this Corflu; some of you who were members of the Corflus since 2021 will have used the Discord server then – and you can still look back at that in the archive sections for each of those conventions.

What? Why?

I do think that Discord works particularly well for a con like Corflu that's had online participation for years – and this time around that's reflected in the membership tiers, where people who know they can't attend in person and aren't fussed about getting paper publications can join at a special supporting member rate for online access only. (Of course, all members can join the Discord and access whatever programme is streamed, contributing whatever's appropriate for you this time; but it won't break the bank to join in remotely.)

So we've got a way to use text chat for in-person and online members alike while the con is happening – to discuss programme, ask for advice, arrange to meet up (whether for dinner or a catch-up over voice chat), share photos or quotes or the name of that fanzine you couldn't remember in another conversation a few hours ago – and it doesn't depend on the programme stream being live or actually being connected to it.

But, just as importantly, Discord gives us a place to chat in advance: about travel or accommodation or programme ideas or other things to do before, during and after the con – or even fanzines (although steady on). As soon as I can I'll add some of the specific

information in this PR to the relevant channels as a prompt and a reminder, and you can follow up with questions and comments there.

How? Where?

Enough of the sales pitch I implied I wasn't going to do; if you're persuaded to at least check it out, what next? Well, as I said some of this will be familiar to some of you – and if you've chatted on Discord for a previous Corflu, you'll still have access to the server now. Log in to your Discord account (I'll come back to that) and the Corflu server, rebranded for Corflu 41, should be there in your server list over on the left.

If you can't see very many channels, that's probably just because I haven't caught up with you being a member of this Corflu! The #welcome channel itself will explain more; but drop a message into the #welcome or #help-desk channels (tag me @ClaireBrialey if you're feeling a sense of urgency) and I'll give you access to all the delights that Corflu 41 currently holds, with more – especially program(me) – to come. And if you're not a member yet, maybe now's the time to join, one way or another.

If all of this is oddly familiar but you know you haven't used Discord for Corflu before, or actually ever, that might well be because you read the PRs for Corflu 39 (Pangloss, in Vancouver in 2022) and so have seen me trying to explain it before. I won't repeat myself in full, because by more wonders of modern technology – and thanks, as so often, to Bill Burns – you can still read those articles in their original form, and I do encourage you to do that to help to get set up and jump in; they include a direct invitation link to the Corflu server. But let me know if you need another one.

Pangloss PR3 (introduction and getting started): https://corflu.org/Corflu39/Corflu_39_Pangloss-PR3.pdf

Pangloss PR4 (some more examples of how Discord can be used): https://corflu.org/Corflu39/Corflu_39_Pangloss-PR4.pdf

What fresh hell is this?

But I mentioned logging in. Steel yourselves... I know some Corflu members – including several quite active in the Discord server – have ended up with two (or more!) accounts, usually due to using a different device

while travelling than the one you'd originally used to join Discord and not having the password for your first account. This means that some of you have got doppelgangers on the server now, and that can seem a bit confusing and makes it harder for people to know which version of you to tag to attract your attention.

If you need to maintain two accounts, perhaps you could change the server name (badge name) so include 'home' and 'away' or 'US' or 'travelling' or whatever distinguishes the accounts for you! And please do tell me (in #helpdesk or via a direct message) whether in practice you're only using one of them for Corflu 41, and I'll sort that out on the server to make it less confusing for everyone else.

Otherwise, while there's time before the con, perhaps you could pick one account, make sure the password is something memorable for you while still being good and strong, and log into that across all your devices? And, of course, tell me what you've done.

WTF?

Beyond that, this is a warning for those of you who haven't logged in for a while. Don't be alarmed, but Discord has rolled out some changes to make people's usernames more meaningful – specifically, to get rid of the four-digit identifiers they added to the username originally.

So you're likely to get a banner message when you log in asking you to choose your username (if you have got more than one account, and want to keep them all, think in advance how you'd like to distinguish them). You'll also be prompted to pick a display name, which will be the default for any server you use unless/until you choose a server name there. Please do contact me if you want to get back into Discord but want some handholding from someone who muddled through it more easily than I expected!

Remind me...?

And more generally otherwise, do consider using the Corflu Discord server as a place to chat to other members. Try to post in a relevant channel (there's a summary at the top of each one), remember you can tag other members and cross-reference other channels too, be assured that you can edit your own messages for typos rather than having to post again, and be excellent to one another.

I find I'm looking forward to being less tired and getting more involved in Corflu 41 again. So thanks for the time to work round to that, and I'll see you there – in Discord and, I hope, in person too.

SMOKIN'!

Mentioned over in the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/corflu>), all the rooms at the Gold Coast are non-smoking (including the consuite, of course), as is the function space. Smoking is ok on the casino floor, and outdoors. Flouting this room rule will incur a \$250 clean-up charge.

The use and possession of cannabis products is also prohibited anywhere on hotel property (as it is in *every* hotel). Anecdotal evidence might suggest that there isn't excessive diligence in enforcing this, but the policy remains, so partakers should bear this in mind and apply discretion.

DRIVERS' ED

Some of you will, we know, either be driving in or will rent a car for pre-, post- or during Corflu excursions. Most renters will default to the large car rental facility close to the airport, but it's worth noting that there are rental places all over the valley and their rates won't be consistent with each other, so if you can be bothered, it may be worth shopping around.

Something not previously noted: self-parking at the Gold Coast is free.

Those of you keen to get out of the city for something a little different might be interested in our ghost towns:

<https://travelnevada.com/discover-your-nevada/8-ghost-towns-near-las-vegas/>

PROG ROCK!

by Sandra Bond

Howdy, Corflu members!

With the countdown clock ticking down to show six months or so till the convention, it's time we thought about the programme.

Firstly let me say that by "we" there I mean not only the organisers, but all of you planning to attend, whether in person or in pixel form.

Corflu is not, traditionally, a heavily programmed convention; but equally, it is not a simple relaxacon with everyone just lounging around partying. It is the annual gathering of fanzine fandom, and as usual, you may expect the programme to reflect that fact. Healthy discussions at Corflu lead to a healthy fanzine scene, of that there can be little doubt; and while our demographic may have grown a little grey and bewhiskered with the passage of time (Christ, look at Nic...) it is surely safe to say that none of us are planning to hold its funeral just yet awhile. Though much is taken, much abides, as Terry Hughes once said in *Mota*.

No doubt you will expect some of the regular features of modern Corflu. You would be quite correct to do so. There will be the traditional Sunday brunch event, with our version of a business meeting attached to it. There will be an auction where you may fill holes in your fanzine collection, pick up random old publications to satisfy your curiosity about how things were done back in the day, or learn what Charles Burbee thought was "not too many".

Unless forcibly prevented by ropes and gags, I intend once again to host an episode of that fannish word-game, "Just a Minac". Last year's champ, Dave Hicks, may not be in attendance – though if he is, I'll press-gang him into defending his title. But I hope that Jen Farey will consent to pitch in once again; will she uphold the instant reputation she earned during her first appearance in Vancouver, or will some new challenger rise to the occasion and prove the new fan to beat?

If there is sufficient demand, I'd like to indulge in that semi-regular event, Corflu Open Mic Night. No gatekeeper I, this invitation extends to anyone who can do something vaguely creative of whatever nature that will entertain an audience for a few minutes, from music to poetry via public knitting and cartoon-jamming. The earlier we hear from intending participants on this front, the more likely it is that the Open Mic will prove viable. So talk to us, folks!

Likewise, we are wholly open to suggestions for panels or other events from people planning to be with us. Does anyone like the sound of a group excursion to any of Vegas's myriad attractions? Do you yearn to moderate a panel on your pet topic? Are you one of the many good-natured types who are simply happy to be press-ganged into participating in any item where we think you'd be a good fit? Once again – say so! With your mouth! Or email, I guess. The sooner the better.

But there will be partying, of course. In particular, the aforementioned greying of our demographic means that many of us are reaching retirement age; and that will be the case for three of our mainstays; Rich Coad, Lucy Huntzinger, and the intrepid compiler of this PR, Nic Farey. That being the case, this trio are combining their strengths – individually, to be reckoned with – to throw a tripartite wing-ding which should send echoes resounding halfway across Nevada.

Are you going to be a virtual attendee? Well, don't rule yourself out. The march of technology has left a mark on conventions, and indeed, Corflu can boast having been one of the very first – maybe even THE first – to allow members to attend virtually. With enough warning, we hope to be able to allow for virtual members to participate on the programme not only from the audience but as panelists. Here, of course, giving us early notice is of crucial importance, since we'll need to make certain in advance that we can pull this feat off successfully. (There's nothing more frustrating than a hybrid convention where the virtual part doesn't work properly, and ask me how I know...)

I hope this is enough to whet your appetites and get you in the right frame of mind for the astonishing event which Nic and I intend to run for you. So on that note, it's over to you. Address any programming queries, ideas, rants or invitations to pistols at dawn, to vegas41@corflu.org

We're gonna make this programme ROCK.

MEMBER LIST

ATTENDING

James Bacon	David Hodson
Lenny Bailes	Lucy Huntzinger
Tom Becker	Rob Jackson
S&ra Bond	Jerry Kaufman
Jeanne Bowman	Gail Kolthoff
William Breiding	AC Kyle
Claire Brialey	Gary Mattingly
Bill Burns	Petrea Mitchell
Mary Burns	Jacq Monahan
Chris Clay	Mary Ellen Moore
Rich Coad	Murray Moore
Tee Cochran	Ulrika O'Brien
Eli Cohen	Mark Plummer
Leigh Edmonds	Alan Rosenthal
Jen Farey	Nigel Rowe
Nic Farey	Joe Siclari
Doug Faunt	Spike
Tommy Ferguson	Edie Stern
Lori Forbes	Geri Sullivan
Aileen Forman	James Taylor
Keith Freeman	Suzanne Tompkins
Linda Gerstein	Pat Virzi
Roy Hessinger	Ted White

SUPPORTING

Zi Graves
John Hertz
Marcin Klak
Kerry Kyle
David Langford

VIRTUAL

Steven Cain
Rowan Jenkins
Alison Scott

CALL FOR BIDS FOR CORFLU 42 (2025)

At this time we're aware of only one early proposal, for a return to the UK in 2025. We're happy to publicize any and all bid efforts in the next PR (due in December), as well as suggesting that any interest be expressed on both the Facebook and Discord Corflu groups.

MEMBERSHIP TARIFF

Full Attending Membership with everything on it (until September 30)	\$100	£85	€90
(From October 1)	\$120	£95	€110
Supporting with convention package, streaming access and Discord	\$50	£40	€45
Supporting with streaming access and Discord only	\$12.50	£10	€12

PayPal payments should be sent to either Jen Farey: fareyjen@gmail.com for US dollar and other denominated payments, or Keith Freeman: keithfreemanrbas@gmail.com if GBP denominated. Choose the “**For Friends and Family**” payment option on PayPal.

Please send your postal and email address details with payment, and, if paying for memberships other than yourself, the name(s) of the other membership recipients. If paying in currencies other than USD or GBP, please enter the payment amount in US dollars/pounds and let PayPal convert currencies.

GOLD COAST HOTEL BOOKING

Room rates:

Typically Vegas hotels quote room rates which are then subject to an added “resort fee” and hotel tax of 13.38%. To save you the anguish, the rates we quote here are inclusive of all that:

Thursday: \$98.63

Friday/Saturday: \$137.18

Sunday: \$82.76

These rates are for single or double occupancy. For triple occupancy, add \$22.68 (including taxes) per night, quad add \$45.35. The Sunday rate also applies for the couple days before and after the convention.

Booking:

To book online and get the group rate:

- 1) Please Visit: <https://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>
- 2) Enter the Group Code **CORB24C** into the Group Code box, and click submit.

To book over the phone:

- 1) Call the Reservation Hotline @ 888-402-6278
- 2) Inform the agent you want to book using group code CORB24C

All reservations must be made using the group code and must be made prior to February 2, 2024 to be eligible for the group rate.

We’ve heard from some members that booking online doesn’t always work, but booking by phone definitely does.

Deposit and cancellation policy:

When you book your room, the hotel charges the first night to your card as a deposit. If you need to cancel, this needs to be done at least 24 hours before scheduled arrival to get your dosh back.

Anyone considering room-sharing, we’ll be happy to announce your wishes and try to get you in touch, both via PRs, also on the Facebook Corflu group and Discord.

Inquiries (**not** payments) to vegas41@corflu.org