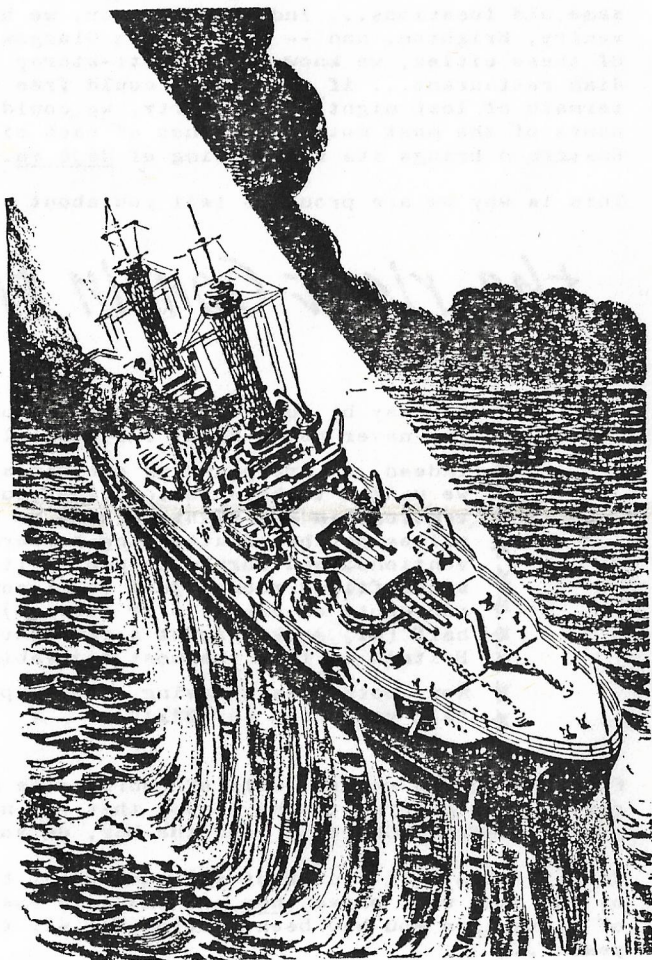


STORNOWAY IN 88



SEALYCON



progress report 1

SEALYCON



By the time SEACON 84 is finished, most fans WILL realize they are quite tired of attending the same old conventions, in the same old locations... Indeed, like you, we have seen Leeds, Coventry, Brighton, and -- yes -- even Glasgow more than once... Of these cities, we know every multi-storey parking, every Indian restaurant... if our memory could free itself from the aftermath of last night's room party, we could even give you the names of the most notorious winos of each city... Every new Eastercon brings its own feeling of déjà vu...

This is why we are proud to tell you about

the right Con in the right

- ★ You may be surprized, and have good reasons for this :
- ★ you never heard about our bid till now!
- ★ Indeed, we are planning our bid since 1980... However,
- ★ we wanted to be sure to bring you the right kind of convention, in the right locale. So one half of our committee purchased attending memberships in various conventions, and lurked in poorly lit hotel corridors, and smoke filled rooms, just to discover the actual needs
- ★ and wants of Joe A. (for Average) Fan, while the other half (hi, Jack!) spent a few months exploring Great Britain to find the most enjoyable spot...
- ★ Now, both quests having ended happily, we are proud to tell you about our B*I*D.

Future progress reports will of course give many details about our various program tracks -- not that you need a Portable Program Time-Track Chart to find the bar, do you?

We will also tell you about the members of the Bid Committee, and, by the same way, prove they are the only ones to know just the kind of convention you had been waiting for all those long, unending years...

We will not be selling pre-supporting memberships -- such a trick is unworthy of our cause... However, we would be ready to accept token (but useful) donations, like a bottle of ~~XXXX~~ Tipp-Ex, or even a design for the Pork Pie Race.

You will find more details about our Con, and our host city on pages 3 and 4, but we are already happy to say :

BE SEEING YOU IN STORNOWAY!



You certainly know the Royal Burgh of Stornoway, don't you?

If not, this will be a wonderful way to discover its charming atmosphere, its unspoiled scenery, and its lovely citizens...

How do you get there?

Well, it should not be too difficult... However, the nearest rail station is so long away that even the walk from Brighton Station to the Metropole would seem a very, very short one when compared to it... So you will travel by car.

Once this axiom is admitted, the difficulties are very few... Getting to Glasgow should be no problem... (However, getting off the M73 at the junction with A80, in the direction of Glasgow, should be a problem. We trust you will be able to solve it before reaching Stirling.) Then, if you managed to find your way through the various limited access junctions

place!

of the M8 in Central Glasgow, and to avoid getting involved in the ALBACON/FAIRCON feud, you certainly will be able to find your way North to Rest and be Thankful (you will be), and further North to Oban. From Oban, you will need only one ferry (but 9 hours) to reach Lochboisdale. As the ferry is scheduled to arrive at 11pm, but is always late, we will try to arrange special rates for con-goers at the Lochboisdale Hotel. (This hotel is known for very cheap but absolutely delicious lobster evening meal, but you will sadly be unable to enjoy it, as you will have to leave early in the morning...) From Lochboisdale, it is a simple matter to drive to Lochmaddy. The single track (but surfaced) road goes through South Uist, Benbecula and North Uist, as well as untold smaller islets, not mentioning the various bridges, causeways and the like. (Travelers from Lochboisdale to Lochmaddy usually have no difficulty understanding why the Uists and Benbecula are often collectively called 'the Long Isle'...) If you reach Lochmaddy before noon, you will find another ferry, and after a very short trip (2 hours, and even that will seem very short after the Oban-Lochboisdale ferry) you will arrive on Harris. From there you only have to drive North (and you will be used to by the time you reach Harris...) on another sinuous single track road, to enter Stornoway tired but ready for your most memorable Eastercon...

Going back to your home after the Con is no great problem either. Just give you a few days to get used to driving South. Only real problem should be getting on M73 when travelling on the A80 from Glasgow. We suggest the following solution: when you realize you are a long way past the junction, you get off the A80 at Cumbernauld, and ask a local policeman... They are used to such questions, and will give you many helpful hints...



SEALYCON





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The Convention hotel is not yet definitively decided upon; however, at this early stage, we are thinking to use the Caberfeidh Hotel (if only for its out-of-the-world drambuie ice cream), with the Sea Front Bed-&-Breakfast as overflow ~~hotel~~ sleeping place.

We regret the Caberfeidh will not have kettles in the rooms, but electric blankets are provided free of charge. The Sea Front B-&-B will have kettles, but no running water in the rooms.

Obviously, we will have to bring some changes to the traditional Eastercon program, if only to bring it in line with the local social & religious realities.

To begin with, we will have to close the bars all day long on Good Friday, as well as Easter Sunday and Monday. They will be open during normal Scottish hours on Saturday. After long negotiations, we have been able to obtain that the hotel restaurant will be open to residents only during one hour on Easter Sunday. Non-residents, unless they are on a severe diet, will need to buy their own food on Saturday...

Another item to be removed from the program is the Fancy Dress Parade : its time slot will be devoted to a session of compulsory hymn singing, under the direction of Rev. Angus McAulay. You may bring your own prayer book for the occasion.

Other new activities scheduled are : seal watching in the Stornoway bay (see them dive! hear them snort!), bird watching in the country (our crested tits, red-necked phalaropes and spotted flycatchers are worth the trip...)

One particular panel is already firmly booked : it will be devoted to "Peat in science-fiction".

For the first time, we will have Bob Shaw giving a serious scientific talk, where he will explain how von Daniken explains the Callanish stones. This talk will be followed by a trip to Callanish, so that everyone can see for himself the stones are indeed the ruins of a pre-Celtic Guinness brewery.

Cover illustration kindly donated by Hans Waldemar Wessolowski

This progress report has been brought to you by

**STORNOWAY IN 88
BIDDING COMMITTEE**

