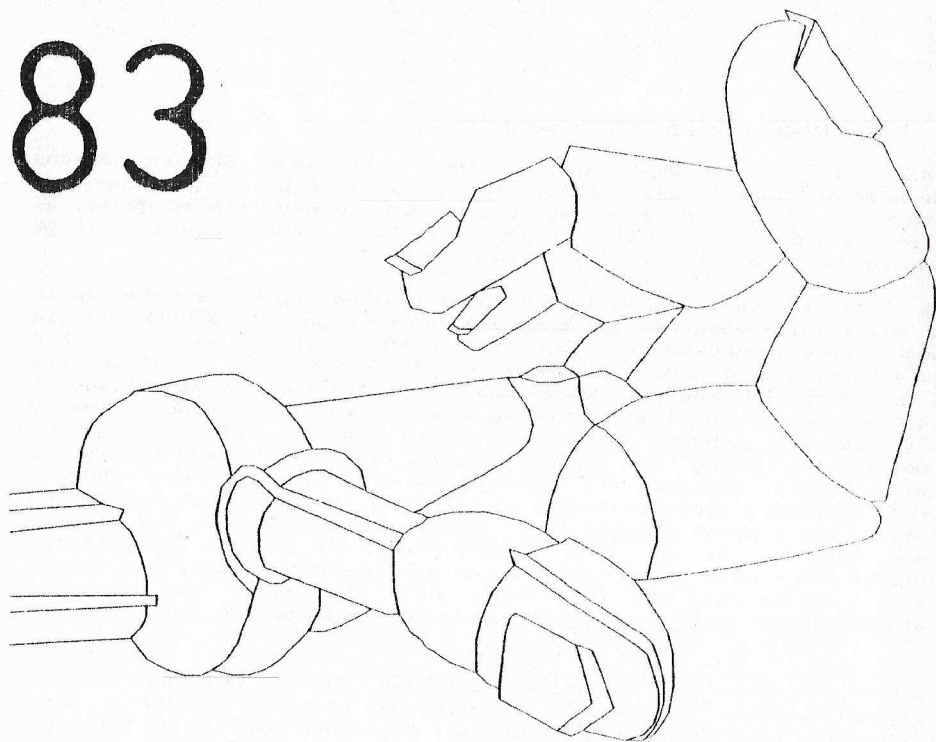


BECCON

83



PROGRESS REPORT 5

After we had finished typing the BECCON Programme Book I thought to myself that I had finished with Word Processors and printing deadlines, at least for this year. Little did I know that we would decide to issue a P.R.5.

I imagine that you thought you were safe from our bad jokes, and would no longer have to struggle to comprehend the brilliant intellectualism of our magnificent publications. Little did you know that we would decide to issue a P.R.5.

Nevertheless, here it is, - and not just as another opportunity to inflict our "humour" on you, but mainly to say how we felt about the Con, to thank people who helped us, and as a vehicle to publish our accounts (something which we consider very important).

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

There have not been that many Con reports about BECCON; perhaps the heat of summer has reduced the fanzine output - or perhaps nobody could think of anything to say. One I would like to quote, as perhaps the most interesting report I have come across - from somebody who did not actually attend the Con:

"Oh shit, I wish I'd gone to BECCON. I just phoned Uncle Peter up to ask his opinion about an apa-B matter and he's gone to BECCON. Martin Tudor's gone to BECCON. Paul Vincent's probably there as well. For all I know, all of brum fandom has gone to BECCON, and I'm stuck here in my terraced house in Abbey Road, in Erdington, incommunicado. I can hear the roar of traffic coming from Spaghetti Junction (actually it's more of a subdued hum, but 'roar' sounds better). They're probably all going to BECCON. Humph. (As they used to say in comics). Well alright, it's too late now - I should have thought about booking a room earlier, I should have thought about even going earlier, but I never thought that BECCON would turn into one of the conventions to be at. I'd always thought of it as a tatty little regional con - only a few locals would go wouldn't they? And they'd sit in a little room and play 'Fan Turn Challenge' all weekend, wouldn't they? Well, okay, I was wrong, and now I'm suffering for it."

Thankyou for those kind words Cath Easthope. Just to put your mind at rest, not everyone on Spaghetti Junction was going to BECCON - some of them may have been going to Redcar. One other mention we did get, which came as a bit of a surprise, was in the Guardian's Women's Page - fortunately without a full address, or we could have had an awful lot of Guardian Women turning up (punctuate that to your own taste). I think that one of our biggest surprises was the number of fans from abroad - America, Italy, Holland and Sweden spring to mind, and I understand that there was also a French fan who just happened to be in the Hotel that weekend, without having known about BECCON. We would like to thank them all for coming, and for being willing to go on our Foreign Fans Panel without any advance warning.

Generally speaking, most people seem to have had a good time at the Con, - I know we did - although there were a few problems with the Hotel, and there was also some trouble on the trains on Friday which delayed a lot of people including the participants for the first item, so that we had to start with a programme change.

THANKS

For their assistance, without which our job would have been impossible, we would like to thank;

Ken Bulmer, for being our G.O.H. and taking part in the Con like the fan he really is.

Sylvia Starshine, who produced a quite amazing stained-glass plaque for us to present to our Guest of Honour.

Tim Broadribb, for staying up all of Saturday night to project the films for us.

Lionel Fanthorpe, for the plays and the song. (Or should that be mentioned in the next section.)

Los Alamos Fandom, for the considerable efforts they put into organising the Firework display.

Amy Thompson, for helping out generally, and particularly on the registration desk.

Chuck Partington, and the M.A.D. group for printing the bibliography.

AND, everyone who took part in any of the programme items.

APOLOGIES

We would like to apologise for any difficulties anyone had with their room bookings; we did make every effort to ensure that the Hotel had made reservations correctly, only to discover, on the day, that in some cases their records did not match the (correct) booking slips they had issued. They had also promised two keys would be available for twin/double rooms, except card operated, but were unable to do this on the day, saying that they had gone missing at an event the previous weekend. We would also like to apologise for not re-showing Nosferatu on the Sunday evening. In our enthusiasm we had forgotten that we had promised to let the Hotel have the room back to be cleaned for a booking the next morning.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

Here we can give a free plug to upcoming Cons for your information;

CYMRUCON - 26-27 November 1983, Cardiff.

Attending £9.00.

Helen McNabb, The Bower, High Street,
Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan.

SEACON 84 - April 20-24 1984, Brighton.

Attending, £8.00; Supporting, £3.50

Pauline Morgan, 321 Sarehole Road,
Hall Green, Birmingham.

MEXICON - 25-28 May 1984, Newcastle.

Attending £5.00

Sue Williams, 19 Jesmond Dene Rd,
Newcastle on Tyne, NE2 3QT

ALBACON 84 - 20-23 July 1984, Glasgow.

Attending £8.00, Supporting £3.00

F.J. Nelson, 62 Campsie Road,
Wishaw, ML2 7QG

OXCON (UNICON 5) - 24-27 August 1984, Oxford.

Attending £8.00, Supporting £4.50

M.S. Porter, 28 Asquith Road,
Rose Hill, Oxford.

BECCON ADDRESS

The address for all correspondence with the BECCON Committee remains:

191 THE HEIGHTS
NORTHOLT
MIDDLESEX
UB5 4BY

Where Mike and/or Kathy Westhead will pass it on to whoever is going to deal with it.

BECCON SWEATSHIRTS

You may have noticed that the Committee were wearing shirts with the BECCON logo on them, - in a small tasteful size, as befits the discreet and retiring nature of the BECCON Committee. Quite a few people asked where they could get them, but we were far too busy to do anything about it at the time. Now, however, we can offer BECCON shirts in three styles and various colours. If you would like one (or more) fill in the form and send us your money! We have to order from our suppliers a minimum of 12, so we will have to batch your orders, and the waiting time will thus vary. We will keep you informed.

BECCON 85 BECCON 85

A lot of people have been asking whether there would be another BECCON (sometimes with dire threats if there was'nt), and we have been answering with a degree of caution. To set your minds at rest, we can now definitely confirm that there will indeed be a BECCON in 1985, maintaining the two year gap that we think is necessary if we are to do our best. Our "house style" will remain unchanged from '81 and '83 (if it is'nt broke, why mend it?), and we do not intend to expand in size from '83, - indeed the Hotel could not accomodate any more. As yet, naturally, we have no details we can give you, except that it will be in Summer, and it may very well be back in Basildon again, but it is obviously far too early for us to give a firm date or location. Nevertheless, if you wish to take the bold step of joining early, we are willing to accept memberships at the rates of:-

ATTENDING.....£8.00

SUPPORTING.....£4.00

These rates will remain firm for as long as possible, and until after SEACON 84 at least. Sorry about the increase, but despite what Maggie says inflation is still going on, and indeed the rise would have had to be larger had we not had a surplus to carry forward from this year.

Finally, this is probably the place to say that Simon Beresford has resigned from the Committee, due to other commitments; the rest of us would like to thank him for all the work he has done over the past four years.

BECCON 85 - THE FORM.

MEMBERSHIP.

Please enrol me as a Member of BECCON 85. I enclose:-

Supporting Membership @ £4.00 —

Attending Membership @ £8.00 —

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

BECCON SHIRTS.

Please send me the following BECCON shirts:-

			SIZE	COLOUR
Qty — T-shirts	at £4.10 - total £	_____	_____	_____
Qty — Sweatshirts	at £7.80 - total £	_____	_____	_____
Qty — Sportshirts	at £7.80 - total £	_____	_____	)
				) White
				) Only
Qty — Sports T-Shirts	at £5.60 - total £	_____	_____	)
TOTAL £_____				

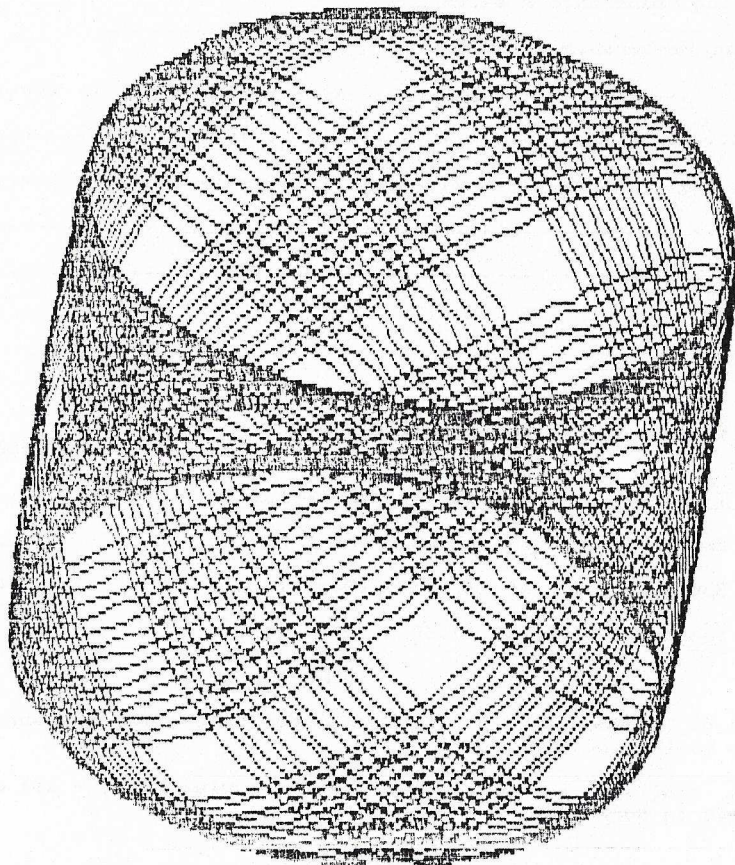
Add £1.00 postage and packing per order unless you are sure we will be seeing you.

Colours available are: White, Yellow, Pale Blue, Red, - all with the motif in Dark Blue.

The Sportshirt has a collar and buttoned neck, the Sports T-Shirt is of a lighter material, with collar and v-neck without buttons.

Sizes available are;

X-Small	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
32	34	36	38-40	42-44	46-48



THE ACCOUNTS

We on the BECCON Committee believe that Conventions should publish their Accounts, so that the Members can see where their money has gone. As the Treasurer of BECCON, I am a bit embarrassed on this occasion, as we have ended up with a profit despite our avowed objective of breaking even. I ascribe this mainly to the unexpectedly large number of walk-ins, and to the considerable success of the Auction. Fortunately we have decided to run another BECCON in 1985, as you will see elsewhere in this P.R., so the surplus will be passed on to that, and so put back into fandom.

INCOME

	£----
From Beccon 81.....	20.24
Membership.....	1746.00
Auction.....	76.25
Deutschmark exchange.....	0.20
Dealers Tables.....	15.00
Adverts.....	11.00
Interest.....	28.60
Voice of the Shrimp.....	14.50

TOTAL £1911.79

EXPENDITURE

	£----
Postage.....	114.48
Stationery.....	26.80
Committee expenses.....	54.90
Committee meal.....	92.00
Printing: Shrimp.....	28.76
Publicity.....	11.20
P.R.s.....	65.00
Programme.....	64.00
Bibliography.....	57.97
Badges.....	44.50
Advertising.....	15.30
Insurance.....	30.00
Fireworks.....	70.00
Hire - amplifier.....	30.00
- projectors.....	50.60
Films.....	219.55
Hotel.....	300.00
Drinks.....	142.04
Guests' expenses.....	175.15
Gratuities.....	50.00
Prizes.....	17.09
Photos.....	14.00

TOTAL £1673.34

SUM CARRIED FORWARD.....£238.45

The Committee paid for their memberships and for their own accomodation.

Of course, that is not the full story; there is still the cost of printing and distributing this Progress Report to be spent.

LOST

Jon Cowie lost a two-bladed penknife at BECCON, which was not found by the Hotel. Much sentimental value - if picked up, please return to the BECCON address.

GO YEAST, YOUNG MAN

Following our delicious tale in the Programme Book, we bring you a story from the the diaries of Earl Norbert Phetilfoon, who was also known in the Galaxy as a gourmet. It concerns the occasion when he recieved an urgent plea for help from the planet of Granary, famous for it's bread. Normally it would have gone against the grain for Earl to respond to the call, but they apealed to his Mothers Pride, and so he went - even though he had never known his parents, having been self-raising. On Granary, the Master Bakers, who were all a little shortsighted, explained their predicament. Famous for their bread the planet might have been, but for the last three years they had lost the annual bakery tournament against the neighbouring planet of Wholemeal, and it was being rumoured that they had lost their edge - spent too much time loafing about. Now the critical event in the bakery competition was the bread slicing contest, where no-one could match the speed and skill of Wholemeal's champion, the German-Jewish baker Hun-Leavened. In the first round (of three) Phetilfoon was thoroughly beaten and he determined that he could only hope to win this event by a strategem, so he searched through the kitchens of the Institute of Bakery until he discovered a large, sharp knife, capable of slicing three loaves of bread simultaneously. "With this," he thought, "I can surely win!" The next day the second round was held, but despite his marvelous knife, Earl was only able force a draw, and this meant that the final round would be critical. Earl Norbert Phetilfoon could think of no other tactic than to search for an even larger knife so that he could slice more loaves at once. He searched and searched, but could find nothing to use. Then, at the last minute, he discovered a huge blade hidden at the back of a drawer, fully capable of slicing more than three loaves at once, - crust what he kneaded! Indeed, so delighted was he that he burst into song, "I'm looking over a four loaf cleaver, that I overlooked before."

MEMBERSHIP

As I have mentioned elsewhere, we had a very large number of walk-ins at BECCON, so to keep things up to date, here is a list of those memberships recieved after the Programme Book went to press.

261 A Alex Mcfie	280 A Stuart Atkinson
262 A John Smit	281 A Philip Allcock
263 A James McHale	282 A Vince Clarke
264 A Renata	283 A Terry Hill
265 A Edward Crowley	284 A Margaret Hill
266 A Alan Jeffrey	285 A Elda Wheeler
268 A James Brunton	286 A Lucy De Pieri
269 A Ahrvid Engholm	287 A Rory Kenny
270 A Lottie Ericsson	288 A Eileen Thomson X
271 A Magnus Ericsson	289 A Laurie Nelken
272 A Peter Weston	290 A Malcolm Wright
273 A Johan Frick	291 A Saul Bura
274 A Anthony Ferguson	292 A Steve Knight
275 A Joseph Beedell	293 A Caroline-not-quite
276 A Annette Neal	-Knight (?)

XNow Eileen Kenny - Congratulations!