

Sou' Wester

THE 1994 EASTERCON



1ST-4TH APRIL 1994
ADELPHI HOTEL, LIVERPOOL

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AROUND THE CON IN 80 DAYS

As many of you will know, everything has not been plain sailing so far, but I'm delighted to say that the con is now very definitely back on course. The course may have changed from Bristol to Liverpool, but at least it still has maritime connections.

In other areas progress has been smoother. We are busily recruiting the essential staff members who will make the convention happen. John Harold has joined us as head of security, an area we are giving especial attention. We have already spoken to the police, and we will be following their advice. Please read the section on walk-in members, and spread the word to anyone you think may want to walk in.

Programming is in progress, and we are recruiting the teams that will put our ideas into practice.

I must welcome Minstrel who has joined David's publicity team, and without whom you would not be reading this.

We will of course need more help, and welcome any suggestions. If you want to see any new items, let us know and we will try to fit them in, but be warned we will probably ask you to run them!

Finally a word to all our presupporting members, and to all those of you who were members of Illumination but have not yet joined Sou'Wester: this is the last PR that you will be sent unless you take out at least a supporting membership. We do not want you to lose touch, we want you to join us. So get out your cheque book and send us a cheque for attending or supporting membership.

See you all in Liverpool.

The Commodore.

WELCOME to PR1

- a little later than we intended, but summer holidays and two crashed hard discs got in the way (Oh for the days when PRs were individually hand-written with a quill pen...). The main news, of course, is the change of venue. For those of you who were looking forward to the first Eastercon in Bristol for a quarter of a century: sorry; so were we! But we think the Adelphi in Liverpool is a more than satisfactory substitute, and we know many of you agree. More on the hotel later.

COMMITTEE & OTHERS

Commodore: Marcus Streets (Chairman)

Supercargo: Ben Brown (Treasurer)

Purser: Chris Bell (Membership & Hotel Liaison)

Bosun: Rhodri James (Programming)

Naval Attaché: Sue Edwards (Guest Liaison)

Flag Lieutenant: David V Barrett (Publicity)

Chief Petty Officer: Gary Stratmann (Ops)

Sergeant of Marines: John Harold (Security)

Sparks: Richard the Rampant (Tech)

Dealers' Room: Mark Plummer

Video Programming: Harry Payne & David Row

We are currently in the process of expanding the committee and, of course, of building sub-committees. Like any con we will need a lot of willing helpers over the next 18 months (and at the con itself!); all volunteers gratefully welcomed. If you have expertise in any area of con-running and feel that we're lacking in that area, don't just sit back and point out our inadequacies - come and help!

CONGRATULATIONS TO GLASGOW!

Our heartiest congratulations to the Glasgow team who have won the bid for the WorldCon in 1995. If any of you want a practice run beforehand, come and join us; there's plenty of jobs to be done...

A GOOD, SOLID, TRADITIONAL EASTERCON

A lot of cons say they're going to offer something different, a new approach, a radical, innovative alternative. Sou'Wester, from the very beginning, has intended to be a good, solid, traditional Eastercon. We want to offer the sort of things that you want to have at an Eastercon, not flummox you with daring new ideas. An Eastercon should appeal to all areas of fandom, and Sou'Wester intends to cater for everyone:

SF, Fantasy & Horror fans

serious SF readers (and writers, editors, critics etc.)

lovers of children's fiction

media fans

comics fans

costume fans

filkers

real ale fans

cuddly toys

- and people completely new to fandom

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE...

...is that we don't want, later in 1994, to hear people complaining that Sou'Wester didn't have this, or that, or the other. If you think we should have a panel on The Role of Rodents in Fantasy, come and tell us. If you want a Writers' Workshop, come and tell us. If you want... Basically, it's up to you. Yes, we're running the con, but it's your con we're running. But (despite all rumours) we're not psychic (well, not all of us, anyway). We can't guess exactly what each one of you wants to make Sou'Wester the best Eastercon you've ever been to. **WE'LL ONLY KNOW IF YOU TELL US.** So whatever your ideas are, grab whichever members of the committee you happen to be nearest to, tell them, and make sure they write it down, preferably on something more durable than the next Rizla paper in the packet.

This way, we should end up with the sort of con which fans actually want to go to, and enjoy being at, and remember fondly for years to come.

THE ADDRESS

All correspondence, unless otherwise agreed, should go via the official Sou'Wester address:

**Sou'Wester, 3 West Shrubbery,
Redland, Bristol BS6 6SZ.**

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Our guests include one English, one Northern Irish and two American-born, and two Southern Irish and two American residents. That's two Brits and two Americans in total. One of the reasons we've chosen these particular guests (apart from the fact that we like them!) is that all four of them cross genre boundaries, writing SF &/or Fantasy &/or Horror &/or Mainstream; novels, short stories, film scripts, comic scripts, science programmes, biographies of pop stars (but we promised we wouldn't say who!)... Pigeon-holing is for pigeons; our guests span the genres. We'll say a lot more about them in future PRs, but here's a brief introduction, in alphabetical order of first names:

Barbara Hambly

Barbara has written a dozen fantasy novels, including the Darwath trilogy, Dragonsbane and The Silicon Mage, a vampire novel, Immortal Blood, a historical whodunnit and a couple of Star Trek novels. Several of her novels have been nominated for Nebula Awards. She's been a model and a karate instructor, and is into historical and fantasy costuming, so watch out at the Masquerade. Barbara is not married to any of the other guests.

Diane Duane

Diane has written some of the funniest and most convincing teenage novels about wizards ever: So You Want to be a Wizard?,

Deep Wizardry and High Wizardry; the fantasy novels The Door into Fire and The Door into Shadow, and several Star Trek novels, including the best selling one of all time, Spock's World, and the fiftieth, Doctor's Orders. Diane is married to Peter Morwood.

Neil Gaiman

Neil has not (so far as we know) written any Star Trek novels. He is best known for his designer five o'clock shadow at all times of day and night, and for writing award-winning comics such as Sandman, Black Orchid, and Violent Cases. With Terry Pratchett he co-wrote Good Omens, a very funny novel about how we're all gonna die because it's the end of the world. Neil Gaiman is not married to Barbara Hambly, or to Diane Duane, or to...

Peter Morwood

Peter has written the best-selling fantasy trilogy The Horse Lord, The Demon Lord and The Dragon Lord, two novels set in Old Russia, Prince Ivan and Firebird, several SF novels in collaboration with his wife, and the obligatory Star Trek novel. He has a very convivial attitude to bars, alcohol and late hours, which should come in useful at Sou'Wester. Peter, by some strange coincidence, is married to Diane Duane.

HOTEL NEWS

Sou'Wester has bowed to popular demand and abandoned the Grand Hotel in Bristol. They and we were unable to reach a sensible decision about the cost of hiring their function space....

Our response to this challenge has been nothing if not original. We still intend to hold our convention in the South West of England; we are just moving the definition of South West a little. For the purposes of the 1994 Easter Convention, either Liverpool is to be thought of as being upon the Tamar or else Cornwall is to be regarded as having been transplanted to Merseyside. (If you look at a map really carefully and juggle a bit, Liverpool is just to the South of a line drawn to bisect the country into North and South, and if you really stre-e-e-tch or use a Peter projection or something then you'll see that it is in the Western half.)

We're going to hold Sou'Wester in the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. When we originally got together as a committee to bid for 1994, the Adelphi was our first choice of hotel, but they were at that point fully booked over Easter 1994 and had to turn us away. We think that we're very lucky indeed that their original plan fell through so that we were able to go back to our original plan.

In case you weren't at either Follycon or Eastcon, the two previous Easter Conventions held on this site, I'd better say briefly

why we're delighted to be using this hotel for your convention.

For a start they have some of the friendliest staff in the business, and a very sensible attitude to fans: they've had experience of our behaviour, and they like us. If you haven't been there before, find someone who has and ask: you'll be told what a great hotel it is from that point of view.

Then there's the fact that they're cheaper than the Grand would have been, not just on the rate they're asking for their function space (less than half, for more than twice the space), but also on their room-rates.

Last time I was at the Adelphi they served very good food, and I have no reason to think that their standards have dropped since then. We're still negotiating with them about the exact content of the breakfasts, but I am mentioning a figure of a quarter of a pound of mushrooms per head per breakfast and hoping for the best. Further details will be given to you when I have them myself, have them nailed down in writing, and can make absolute promises.

The function space centres around, and all but a couple of rooms open off, a main lounge which measures about eighty foot by forty. The ceiling there is eighteen feet above your head, and patrons are requested not to throw paper aeroplanes at the chandelier: it has to be lowered on a chain for cleaning, because it's otherwise out of reach. Any inflatable parrots

or other such items found entangled in the lustres after the convention become the property of the hotel.

Dimensions of other rooms we will be using are: one function room 80' x 65', one 70' x 35', one 56' x 38', one 54' x 41', one 40' x 30', one 40' x 24', two 38' x 38', and several smaller rooms...

When Follycon wrote their first PR, they said of the Adelphi: "These factual descriptions don't do justice to the grandeur of the hotel." They were right, and I for one didn't believe a word they said about the place until I'd seen it for myself. Now I've seen it, I believe them; and grandeur is the only word. I'm not going to waste any others trying to better the eulogy Follycon wrote!

Put briefly: the committee are happy with the hotel, and we are confident that you will be too.

If of course you loathe and abhor the whole idea for some reason, and you've already joined up and now wish to have your money back and leave us, I can and shall put on my Membership hat and refund your membership money to you; but I will be wearing a very puzzled expression as I do so.

Chris Bell - Hotel Liaison.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership rates are currently £20 attending, £10 supporting, £10 children 9-14 on 1st April 1994, £1 babies & beasts.

Rates will rise on 30th November to £25, £12.50 and £12.50.

Attending membership is obvious: you get sent all our publications, and come to the convention.

Supporting membership means that you will be sent all those of our publications which come out after you've joined up, (we can't promise to send you all the earlier ones, though we'll try) but have to convert to attending membership if you want to come to the convention.

Conversion from supporting to attending membership will cost whatever the difference is between the two rates at the time of conversion.

Supporting membership is not available for children, babies or beasts.

Presupporting members of Sou'Wester will receive a £2 reduction on Supporting or Attending membership taken out before April 1st 1994.

Presupporting members of Contact should produce proof of same to Chris Bell and will then receive a £1 reduction on Supporting or Attending membership of Sou'Wester, on the basis that this is the amount they've already paid to go to an Easter convention in 1994.

If our change of site means that you no longer wish to be a member of Sou'Wester, your money can be refunded.

All membership rates are liable to rise as the convention approaches, SO JOIN NOW!!

Send your name, your address, your badge name if it is different,

details of membership(s) you want, and the money (cheques etc payable to "Sou'Wester", please) to Chris Bell at the convention address:

**3 West Shrubbery, Redland,
BRISTOL BS6 6SZ,
England.**

This Progress Report is being sent to all members and presupporting members of Sou'Wester, and to all the addresses on the Illumination mailing list. Blessings upon Steve Lawson who printed out labels for us instead of just sending a list! Unfortunately some of the labels only had a name, and "See membership number xxx" on them; so unless I happened to know who was living on the same premises as whom, I haven't been able to make sure that a copy of the PR gets addressed to each person it should have. Please could everyone who knows that they should have got a copy, but only got a share in someone else's, forgive me (and join up now so that it never happens to you again!); please could everyone who knows that they should pass on this copy to someone else who lives there too, do it, so that I don't get thumped...

Chris Bell - Membership

ADVERTISING & DEALERS

Advertising rates in PRs: £30 per page for pros, £16 for fans, et pro rata for divisions of a page. Camera-ready copy (on A4 for photo-reduction) to the Sou'Wester address by 1st February 1993

please.

Dealers' Room: £7.50 per table per day, £25 per table for the whole con. Bookings via the Sou'Wester address.

T-Shirts £6, available at cons, or at London meetings by prior arrangement; ask your nearest committee member.

COMPETITION

We reckon we have one of the best designed con T shirts for years; from the large number you've bought already, we think you agree. So we thought we'd have a Sou'Wester T shirt competition. What we're looking for is photos of The-Silliest-Place-For-A-Sou'Wester-T-Shirt. The person inside the T shirt must be either a member of the convention (or in a member's immediate family), or A Famous Name unconnected with SF, such as Prince Charles, Terry Wogan, Robert Maxwell, L Ron Hubbard etc. (If you can then persuade The Famous Name to become a member, you score double points.)

There will also be a Special Nic Farey/Contact Memorial Award for the Best-Wet-Sou'Wester-T-Shirt photo.

Entries should be sent to Chris Bell at the Sou'Wester address.

All entries (unless deemed too obscene) will be displayed at Sou'Wester, and will be judged by the Guests of Honour.

The prize: what else but another Sou'Wester T shirt?

MEMBERSHIP, THE HOTEL AND SECURITY

We are aware that the Adelphi has a reputation for being prone to petty pilfering. (Every time we turn around someone tells us this again. You can stop now, we do know.) Sou'Wester has therefore formulated a policy which we hope will deal with this problem:

We shall be trying to reduce day memberships and on-the-door payments to a minimum.

In fact we shall be being downright difficult about them.

If for whatever reason someone is unable to join the convention before April 1994, even as a supporting member, then they will be asked at the convention reception desk to produce some form of official proof of identity and address - we know that many people don't carry passports, driving licences, letters from their bank managers, or whatever else in their pockets as a general rule, but we are trying to make sure over the next eighteen months that everyone knows they'll need to bring something of this sort with them if they want to get in on the day.

If someone cannot produce proof of identity, and is not personally known to any member of the committee or to some other fan known personally to the committee, in other words if they cannot produce a reliable "sponser" on the spot, then we shall have to decline (very reluctantly) to take their money or to accept them for membership.

If anyone is unable to decide before April 1994 whether or not to come to Sou'Wester, it would save a certain amount of potential hassle and embarrassment if they could at least let us know in advance about their existence, by writing to Chris Bell at the convention address and telling her that they may be coming.

We shall be very grateful if everyone can publicise this paranoid attitude of ours; we certainly don't want to turn away any bona fide fans simply because we don't happen to know them. It's just a case of trying very hard indeed to weed out the opportunist sneak thieves who have targeted previous conventions held at the Adelphi. Security has to be tighter, and it's a bore and we don't like it either. So if you know anyone who might be planning to turn up out of the blue, or if you live locally and are encouraging friends to come and sample fandom, please could you warn them about our policy? It isn't that we want to upset or insult anyone; it's that we don't want to have missing handbags and stolen cash boxes spoiling the convention. Since we know that fans wouldn't steal from each other, we want to make sure that there's no-one at the convention but fans.

Thank you.

Chris Bell -
Membership AND Hotel Liaison!

CRECHE

The new laws about childcare mean that for us to run a creche will be extremely difficult and very expensive. This is because of the requirements for full-time professionally-qualified attendance on every three children, and such. For this reason, unless there is a very large demand, and unless we charge more than has previously been the case, and unless we are let to know that it is wanted and by how many soon, we won't be running a creche at Sou'Wester. So if (like me - drat it!) you will have small children with you and absolutely require the creche as a condition for your all coming to the convention, please let me know about this as soon as possible, at the convention contact address, and we can panic about it together.

Thank you.

Chris Bell - Membership

WEAPONS

No weapons or facsimiles thereof will be allowed except as part of Masquerade costumes. Except during the Masquerade they must be kept either in your room or in secure store. This has been agreed with the hotel management.

Membership of Sou'Wester as at September 1st 1992.

Michael Abbott	Arato the Mad Elf	Square Bear
Andrew Adams	Arnica	Chris Bell
Iain Alexander	Margaret Austin	David Bell
Alice	Countess Axyldes	Michael J. Bernardi
Alice	Amanda Baker	Simon Bisson
Kay Allan	John Bark	Lissa Blackburn
Phil Allcock	Trevor Barker	Blackie
Chris Amies	Jane Barnett	Hans-Ulrich Boettcher
Simon Amos	Paul Barnett	Susan Booth
Amyl	Julia Barnsley	Kjell Boreström
Andrew Anderson	Simon Barnsley	Jill Bradley
Fiona Anderson	David V. Barrett	Phil Bradley
Friend of Fiona	Stephen Baxter	Alan Braggins
Anderson	Stephen Baynes	John Bray
Kevin Anderson	Bazooka!	Brian
Jacky Andrew	Ninja Bear	Ben Brown

Denzil J. Brown
John Brunner
Bug
Bill Burns
Mary Burns
Steven Cain
KIM Campbell
Jane Carnall
Avedon Carol
Carolyn Caughey
Ceri
Giulia De Cesare
Gareth Cithad
Neil Chambers
Chris
Chris
Christine
Fiona Clark
John Clute
Eddie Cochrane
Jack Cohen
Chris Cooper
Cosmic Dave
Keith Cosslett
Dave Cotterill
Count
Geoff Cowie
Adrian Cox
Jonathan Coxhead
Andy Croft
Chris Croughton
Cuddles
Michael Cule
Sharon Cullen
Tony Cullen
Rafe Culpin
John Dallman
Maggie Dalton
Barbara Davies
Steve Davies
Martyn Dawe
Robert Day
Lawrence Dean
Zoe Deterding
Iain Dickson

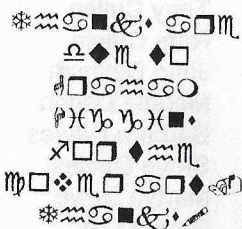
Dermot Dobson
Vince Docherty
Paul Dormer
Diane Duane
David Drysdale
Tim Duckworth
Dyrewulfe
Roger Earnshaw
Martin Easterbrook
Edward
Sue Edwards
Egg
Peter Ellis
Sue Ellis
John English
Bernie Evans
FanTom
Mike Figg
David Alan Finch
Brian Flatt
Mike Ford
Fox
Richard Fox
Anders Frihagen
Wolfgang Frisch
Gwen Funnell
Neil Gaiman
Peter T. Garrett
Steve Glover
Jette Goldie
Clare Goodall
Tim Goodrick
Peter Grace
John A. Graham
Steve Grover
Oliver Grüter-Andrew
Urban Gunnarsson
½r
Dave H
Barbara Hambly
Tony Hammond
John Harold
Richard Harrison
Duncan Hedderley
Theophilus A. Hedgehog

Kari d'Herblay
Graham Higgins
Hitch
Martin Hoare
Rob Holdstock
Tom Holt
Brian Hooper
Valerie Housden
Terry Hunt
Tim Illingworth
Rhodri James
Wilf James
Jenny
John
Sue Jones
Kevin R. Joyce
Judith
Kati
Paul Kearney
Debbi Kerr
Talis Kimberley
Vicki King
Tim Kirk
Kulux the Drow
Christina Lake
Dave Lally
Colin Langeveld
Dave Langford
Steve Lawson
Shelagh Lewins
Chris Linton
Steve Linton
Lockheed
Bill Longley
Hans Loose
Tim Macaire
Alastair McCullough
Rory McLean
Peter Mabey
The Magician
Keith Martin
Jürgen G. Marzi
Barbara Mascetti
Hugh Mascetti
Sue Mason

Rob Meades
 Andrew Meadowcroft
 Mark Meenan
 Melusine
 Richard Middleton
 Rob Miller
 Rod Milner
 Minstrel
 Anthony Neale
 Mittenshaw-Hodge
 Mike Moir
 Peter Morwood
 Caroline Mullen
 Murphy's Lawyer
 Narkil of Norm
 Nick
 Gideon Nisbet
 Andrew Norcross
 Lisanne Norman
 Zander Nyron
 Omega
 Jean Owen
 Dave Parkinson
 Nigel Parsons
 Joan Paterson
 Ellen M. Pedersen
 Bernie Peek
 PPOG Penguin
 Roger Perkins
 Nick Petty
 Phil Plumbly
 Mark Plummer
 Pompino the Kregoyne
 Sherrie Powell
 Dave Power
 Larry van der Putte
 Madam Purple
 Feryal Rajah
 Suzanna Raymond
 Thomas Recktenwald
 Stephen Rice
 John Richards
 Rincewind
 Sylvia Robertson
 Roger Robinson

Howard Rosenblum
 June Rosenblum
 Steve Rothman
 David Row
 Marcus L. Rowland
 Rufus
 Geoff Ryman
 Marjorie Sachs
 Andy Sawyer
 Alison Scott
 Mary Scott
 Mike Scott
 Bob Shaw
 Jean Sheward
 Linda Shipman
 Pat Silver
 Simon
 Sioux
 Ken Slater
 Frank R. Smith
 Dan Smithers
 Smillet
 Smitty
 Christine Smythe
 Snarf
 Kate Soley
 Spanner
 Gary Starr
 James Steel
 Helen Steele
 Barbara Stewart
 David Stewart
 John Stewart
 Lars Strandberg
 Gary Stratman
 Marcus Streets
 Rae Streets
 Charles Stross
 Graham Taylor
 Teddy
 Tenayn
 This Space Left Blank
 Sue Thomas
 Peter-Fred Thompson
 Tibs

Helen Tidswell
 Tim
 Time Travellers
 Angelique van Toorn
 Kees van Toorn
 Ivan Towlson
 Chris Tregenza
 Nienna Tromlin
 Peter Tyers
 Peter Wareham
 Ian Watson
 Judy Watson
 Pam Wells
 Mark West
 Kathy Westhead
 Mike Westhead
 Peter Westhead
 Eileen Weston
 Peter Weston
 Elda Wheeler
 Alastair Wheeler-Reid
 Mike Whitaker
 James White
 Kim Whysall
 Colin Wightman
 Bridget Wilkinson
 Linda Williams
 Matt Williams
 Dave Wood
 Anne Woodford
 Mark Young
 Zum!



Trans: Thanks are due to
 Graham Higgins for the
 cover art. Thanks!