

Apr 5-8 '85

ORCON III

PR 2



Linda
Pickersgill

Pete

introduction ...

Darkness encroaches, leaves crackle underfoot, and gangs of kids with stuffed toys roam the streets in search of easy money. It's November already - the month when chill winds blow through your living room and fireworks whoop past your door. The outside world is a foggy, hostile place, and you want nothing more than to curl up in front of the fire with a bowl of hot soup and a good progress report.

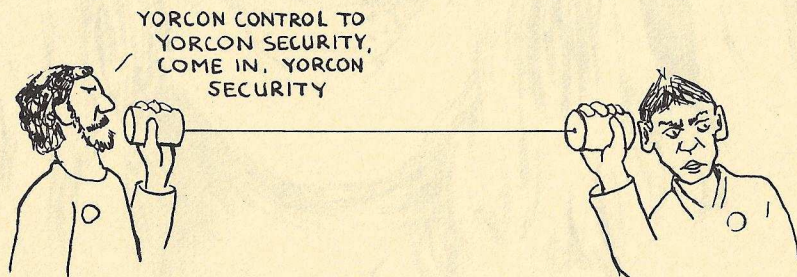
Here it is then - Progress Report 2, with its promise of sunnier times to come: spring flowers, Easter bunnies, and YORCON III.

In our first PR, we concentrated on the main programme and our Guest of Honour, Gregory Benford. This time we bring you up to date with the rest of the delights we have in store for you, and there's a short profile of our Fan Guest of Honour, Linda Pickersgill.

Enclosed with this progress report is the Hotel Booking Form. It would assist us greatly if you could fill this in and return it as soon as possible. Room rates are shown on the form. Please remember to enclose a room deposit of £5 per person (irrespective of nights). The form may also be used to convert from supporting to attending membership and to register all the friends you'll be sharing the room with.

The next progress report will be out in late January/early February, with more information on the main programme, some details of the films we'll be showing, and an update on anything else we think you'd like to know.

Meanwhile, I'll leave you to savour the delights of PR2. (Hope the soup's good too).



THE YORCON III COMMITTEE is Paul Annis, Jim Darroch, Christine Donaldson, Alan Dorey, Rochelle Dorey, Alan Ferguson, Mike Ford, Graham James, Paul Oldroyd, Simon Ounsley, Anne Page, Simon Polley, Jimmy Robertson, Tom Shippey, Sue Simpson, and Linda Strickler James, with invaluable assistance from Arnold Akien and Pete Lyon.

An Introduction to our FAN GoH

Linda Pickersgill

BY JIMMY ROBERTSON

Linda Pickersgill was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, which of course makes her an American. She's the only American I've ever known for any length of time, long enough anyway to really open up and talk to about the things I could never have as a kid. Things like x-ray spex and instant seahorses and tootsie-rolls and hershey bars and life-savers and all the other stuff that was advertised in comics. She could have had them though and I wanted to know what it was like. She even had a ZIP CODE. Wow! When you realised that Linda was brought up on all the TV programs you'd drooled over as a kid, that she was the actual audience they were made for, you just had to know what sort of person this was.

Linda was a comics fan and trivia society member when she discovered, via The Sons of the Sand, fandom and conventions. She took to cons and travelled 18 hours by car to the '76 Worldcon in Kansas City and never looked back. In 1977 she went to the Miami Worldcon and met the Brits bidding for '79 and taught them to kazoo properly. Their reaction to St Louis Blues made Linda's mind up to go to Brighton in '79.

Upon arrival in Brighton she immediately fell into bad company and eventually married one of them but it did mean she was here to stay. She became the blond American at cons that you didn't think was that bad really. I liked her a lot. By November '81 she and Chris Atkinson had brought out a fanzine (START BREAKING UP) and Linda had begun her campaign to take over fandom. She seemed to be at every convention, and when Chris Atkinson mentioned the idea of a women's group in fandom she was up and running. By the end of Channelcon '82, the Womens Periodical was under way, with Linda as administrator. The WP is still causing a few arguments. It managed to stir things up a bit as well as being "a good thing" for most of those involved.

Linda gave up the apa's administration after its first year, but in the meantime had produced her own fanzine, TIGER TEA, which brought some of the women's apa to a wider audience.

At Albacon 2, the Newcastle group made a bid for the Eastercon in a semi-serious way but it was Linda and Abi Frost who made them all take it seriously, which was how the Mexican came about.

One way or another, Linda has affected most parts of British fandom in the last few years. And the ease with which she coped with living with people like me blaming her because I could never send away for the baseball mitt offer in Bazooka Joe chewing gum says something about her tolerance.



Linda will be producing a special issue of her fanzine TIGER TEA, containing all new material, for distribution to attending members of YORCON III.

FAN ROOM

The fanroom at Yorcon III will be in the Dragonara. It will be in the Neville Suite, which is one floor up from the main hall. At previous Yorcons, this has been the bookroom. The fanroom has its own bar area but the bar is quite separate from the fanroom itself. The fanroom will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the con. So much for facts.

We would like to make the fanroom worth a visit by making it interesting for both new and old fans. There will be a programme and if you have any ideas about items I'd be glad to hear from you. The fanroom is not the place where you are spoken at but where you are spoken to and with, participation being the only worthwhile aim.

When I first went to cons I found the fanroom quite off-putting simply because there was really no information about fandom and what it does. The fanroom was full of people I didn't know talking about things I hadn't a clue about. If there had been something accessible there then I would have hung around. The fanroom is an opportunity to declare what we are and what we do. There is always talk of cliques and elites but the truth is that fandom is wide and diverse in what it does. Everybody assumes they know what is going on and what is important about fandom, but many fans are ignorant about what goes on outside of their own special interests. I hope to use the fanroom to display what is happening and who is doing it, but it is up to you. There will be lots of wall space to be covered and it is up to you to help fill it. You can help in the following ways:

Fanzines: There will be a table for you to give away/sell your fanzines, so bring some extra copies if you can. I would like to display every fanzine cover appearing between Easter '84 and Easter '85 so please send me your covers with date of publication and, if your fanzine is available, your name and address.

Groups: There will be a PRIZE for the best display by a group. Displays should be no bigger than 4ft high and 6ft wide and easily hung on the wall with pins or blue tac. They should provide information about what the group does (or doesn't), where it meets, if it costs anything etc.

Apas: I would also like the flourishing apas of fandom to provide some info for the wall. The administrators could tell people about their apa and how to join, purpose, cost, waitlist, etc. An A4 sheet would do but don't let that curb your mega creativity. Bigger would be better.

So, the fanroom will be for and about fans and fandom and if you have any ideas about what should appear or have a particular axe to grind, you should let me know. If you're not represented, you've only yourself to blame.

Please send all material and enquiries to me at

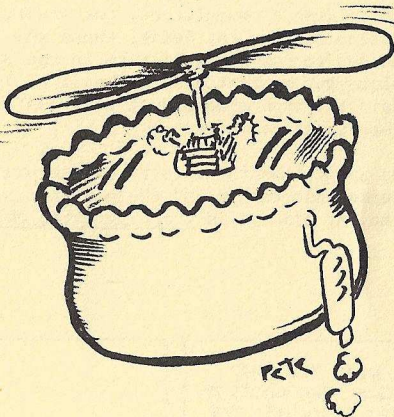
8 The Hermitage
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT1 2LZ

Jimmy Robertson

PORK PIE RACE

You've seen it done at three Eastercons - now's your chance to have a go yourself!

The Great Pork Pie Race has proved to be one of the most popular silly events at recent Eastercons, so when it happens again at YORCON III you too can earn either the plaudits or the sympathy of a huge audience up to and including Brian Burgess. All you need to do is dream up and build a mechanical or other method of transporting a standard Brian Burgess pork pie across (or above!) forty feet of flat smooth floor.



So far, the organisation of this daft event has been mainly the ~~task~~ province of Jim Barker; but as he wants (a) a rest and (b) the chance to enter his own competition, and as I've now been crazy enough to make silly models that have won the competition twice, I've retired from entering and am organising it instead.

Rules: The pie must be successfully transported from the start line to the finish by a self-contained device or system. Clockwork and battery-powered devices are allowed, as are small petrol- or steam-driven devices; but not devices exclusively manually powered (i.e. no carrying or pulling by hand!) or likely to harm hotels or people. The winner will be the most original device.

The judges (it is hoped Brian Burgess will again chair the panel) may award a further prize for the silliest/punniest/most fannish entry, even if unsuccessful, or for the entry making the best use of old fanzines.

Ideas tried so far with some success include wind-powered (fanned by fanzines), weight-driven, and steam-driven models, also a vast paper dart, a monorail and a clockwork wastepaper basket. Those tried with no success so far include balloon-powered and radio-controlled models, an electric Lego aeroplane and a wheeled robot Burgess.

Ideas not tried so far include rubber-powered, hamster-powered and friction-powered models. Why not try one of these - or a propeller-driven skateboard? a cable car? a walking robot or dog? Start thinking and building now.

We'd like to know if you're entering before the con, so we know how many entries to expect. If you'd like more details please contact me on Bosham (0243) 574242 or at Chinthey, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, W. Sussex, PO18 8UH.

Rob Jackson

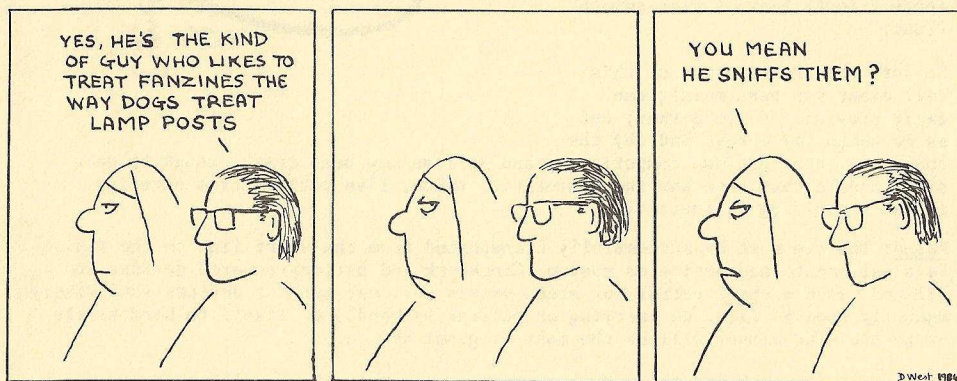
ART SHOW

The Art Show is to be held in the lovely, spacious Knaresborough Room in the Queens Hotel. Anyone journeying to the main hall passes through, so there's no excuse for missing it. There's plenty of space for hanging work, and we hope to provide seating, so encouraging people to spend some time in the Art Show, viewing and talking to others of like mind.

We are holding a competition, the winner of which will be chosen by all the convention members (at least, those who bother to vote). A special prize will be awarded to the worst picture in the show, judged not necessarily on just technique but content also - should be interesting. However, we do hope to maintain the high standard of previous Eastercon Art Shows, so all you artists out there, get painting.

If you would like to exhibit, please write to me as soon as possible, giving your name and address and the number of square feet of space you would like to reserve. My address is 2 Spring Hill, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Sue Simpson



Ken McIntyre Award

The Ken Mc Intyre Award, named after a popular fan and pro artist of the fifties, has been presented each year since Ken's death in 1968. Interest in the award seems to have waned recently, but we hope to promote a healthier response at YORCON III. We'll be publishing the full rules in the programme book, but basically the award is for the best cover art on a fanzine to appear in the 12 months before the con. (The artist must live in the UK). If you've read the fan room article, you'll know that Jimmy Robertson is keen to display fanzine covers in the fan room. All you have to do to enter for the award is bring the original artwork for the cover and a copy of the zine itself, so that we can display them both. OK? Please bear this award in mind when you're running off your next zine. Fan artists seem to get little enough credit for all their hard work. We think this award is a Good Thing and should be supported. (Otherwise Jimmy will Take Measures).

BOOKROOM

The Yorcon III Bookroom will be located in a suite of three rooms in the Queens Hotel, the Brontes Suite; the allusion is at least literary if not science fictional. The Brontes Suite has its own foyer with facilities, and is situated near the main hall (in which the Guest of Honour speech will be given) and the Art Show. There will be plenty of wall space for display purposes.

The Bookroom will be open from 10am to 5pm each day. Tables may be booked now, at £10 each for the weekend. Just write to me at 60 Ridge Terrace, Leeds, LS6 2DA. In addition, if you have any questions, comments, or criticisms, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Paul Annis

EASTERCON BIDDING

Making firm bookings at convention hotels a mere one year in advance is becoming increasingly difficult.

In a quest for variety, I've recently been looking further afield than the now "traditional" Eastercon sites of Brighton, Glasgow, and Leeds, only to find that alternative venues at Blackpool, Scarborough, and Bournemouth have firm bookings from such as the NUT up to two years in advance. It seems to me that it's high time the Eastercon bidding rules were brought up to date, so that bidding can take place two years before the event.

As well as increasing the range of available venues, this might also facilitate more ambitious programming: theatre and dance troupes, for instance, may need more than a year to plan a performance.

What I'd like to propose at YORCON III is that bidding for the Eastercon becomes two years in advance of the event from 1986 onwards (i.e. two conventions would bid in '86 - one for '87 and one for '88 - and thereafter one each year for the Easter two years later.... OK?). If anyone has any comments about the proposed change, please let me know. My address is 46 Colwyn Road, Beeston, LEEDS 11.

Hopefully, there'll be room to print responses and discuss the idea further in PR3.

Paul Oldroyd

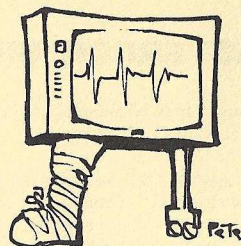
It seems worth pointing out, before there's any confusion, that the above idea is being proposed by Paul as an individual rather than the YORCON III committee, though the rest of us think it seems a sensible enough idea. We intend to give Paul time to propose the idea formally at this year's bidding session, after the bidding for '85 has taken place. As Paul says, do write and let him know what you think.

FILM and VIDEO

The film programme will explore science fiction and fantasy to their outermost borders. Jim Darroch is planning a programme with variety and imagination, breaking away from the same old standbys which seem to get reeled out year after year. He has already produced a provisional list of films and is now checking on availability. We'll have more details for you in PR3.

On the video front, Alan Ferguson will be concentrating on recent material, which is usually available on video about six months after cinema release. For that reason, he'll be keeping the programme fluid up until the last moment, slotting in any last minute releases as they become available. He hopes to have some shorts and cartoons to run as double bills with the feature films (and there may even be one or two of Alan's favourite adverts!) "If things go wrong, I'll always have really good excuses" writes Alan, "and if the reds and greens come screaming out of the screen at you, that'll be because I'm colour-blind, so please let me know."

At the time of writing, Alan is in hospital with a broken leg (well, if he will get into arguments at committee meetings....) though I'm told he hopes to be out in time for NOVACON. On behalf of the YORCON III committee, I'd like to wish him a very speedy recovery.



MASQUERADE

Saturday night will see the traditional Masquerade, but this time with a slight change. We invite you to attend as heroes or villains from fact, fiction, or your own imagination. With luck we will be able to provide background music reminiscent of the silent movie era (especially for the older fans amongst you!)

The Masquerade has proved a high point of many conventions - and the more entries the merrier. Here is your chance to demonstrate your imagination and skill, and frequently your sense of humour! The costume should be devised by yourself and/or friends, but should not be the work of a professional unless so stated on your entry form. It should not be a costume which has won a previous contest.

Please do not think you need to be an expert designer or costumier to enter - some of the best costumes are the simplest. You do not have to stagger under a layer of huge rhinestones or sparkle with sequins if this does not appeal to you.

Prizes - probably the usual containers of "falling-down juice" - will be awarded at the judges' discretion.

It is hoped to provide a children's costume workshop in the creche at some time on Saturday to make simple costumes, if the mums will provide some raw materials and a helping hand. It would be fun to have a large entry from "Bratfandom" this year, and of course there's always a small "something" for each child entrant.

For anyone wishing to enter the contest there is a form below - either return the completed form to the address shown up to a week before the con (I like early entries - it helps!) or hand it to me or the registration desk before noon on the Saturday of the convention.

Anne Page

***** MASQUERADE - YORCON III ***** ENTRY FORM *****

NAME CHILD/ADULT ENTRY?

ADDRESS
.....

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ENTRY

NAMES OF PEOPLE IN ENTRY
.....

DID ANY PART OF THE ENTRY INVOLVE PROFESSIONAL WORK/HELP?

TITLE OF ENTRY

PLEASE STATE HERO OR VILLAIN

ANY SCRIPT FOR MC

ANY FURTHER INFO

Please send this form to the address below up to the end of March or hand it in at the convention.

Anne Page, 11 Manor Farm Road, Tyseley, BIRMINGHAM B11 2HT

SCIENCE FICTION: An inside view

Keep informed of the latest NEWS, VIEWS and OPINIONS in the changing world of Science Fiction.

Membership of the BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION offers to you in its bi-monthly publications REVIEWS - ARTICLES - INTERVIEWS by the foremost writers of the Science Fiction Genre.

Recent magazines have featured:

Barrington Bayley, Gregory Benford, Michael Bishop, Arthur C. Clarke, Michael Coney, Richard Cowper, Frank Herbert, Chris Priest, John Sladek, Robert Silverberg, Ian Watson, Gene Wolfe, and many more major contemporary writers.

FRANK HERBERT

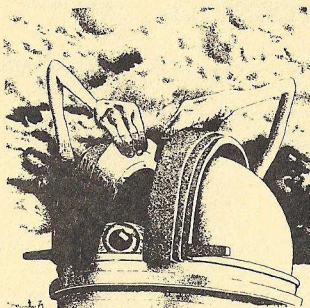
"...I have a kind of amorphous sense of an audience out there and I really care about that audience, I really do. I want them to be entertained, I want to give them the frosting on the cake. I want all these good experiences to come out in it. I sort of see myself as the jongleur who comes into the castle to sing for his supper, telling about the other castle down the highway. And, my God, people pay me for it. What a marvellous thing!..."

GENE WOLFE

"....I really started writing The Book of the New Sun as a short story, and it got out of hand. . . . I kept having characters walk into the damn book. I came across an old letter that I wrote back in 1976 or 1977 to some friends, describing the thing, and I said it was like owning a two-foot square of the sea and thinking that you had an aquarium, because sharks and so forth pass through it, in and out. . . ."

STEVE GALLAGHER

"....The Doctor Who office has no problems attracting would-be writers. The problem lies in coping with the influx of junk that makes Sturgeon's Law look like a serious underestimate..."



GREGORY BENFORD

"...The science fiction field is clearly developing into a two tiered system in which a fairly small number of people perhaps a dozen or so, make reasonably large amounts of money; and everybody else stays down there, trying to leap up and catch onto the parapet...."

RICHARD COWPER

"....The night before I was due to start work on the new book I had a vivid dream. In this dream I was walking along a gas-lit street. It was winter. Snow was falling. Hearing footsteps behind me I glanced back over my shoulder and saw a small child with a 'bird mask' on its head running through the snow towards me. As it drew alongside it spread its paper wings and simply vanished. I woke up wondering what on earth the vision meant and jotted down its essential elements...."

CHRIS PRIEST

"....I was no longer a child, but it was still very tempting to think of any nuclear attack as being a sort of super-blitz, one which would devastate perhaps hundreds of square miles of land rather than hundreds of acres, and one which would kill millions of civilians rather than several thousands. Such a war would be essentially survivable by some people.... But the twentieth century is full of lies and the greatest of all is that nuclear war, even all out nuclear war, is going to be survivable by some...."

Please enrol me as a member of the BSFA. I enclose postal order/cheque (payable to 'BSFA Ltd') for £7.00 (\$14.00).

NAME: ADDRESS:

Post to: S. Brown, 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, Lanarkshire, Scotland G72 9NA or in the US: C. Chauvin, 14248 Wilfred, Detroit, Michigan, 48213, USA.

REGISTRATIONS (CORRECT TO 27 OCTOBER 1984)

133 A Fiona Anderson	166 A Malcolm Edwards	197 A Charlotte Bulmer
134 A Don Wollheim	167 A Niall Judge	198 A John Butcher
135 A Elsie Wollheim	168 A Nicholas Paul	199 A Elizabeth Sourbut
136 A Betsy Wollheim	Holland	200 S Susan Leadbeater
137 A Peter Stampfel	169 A J C Reynolds	201 S David Leadbeater
138 A Graham Smith	170 A S C Hatch	202 A Tom Jones (Major Tom)
139 A David Bell	171 A Peter Mabey	203 A Sheila Kavanagh
140 A Chris Priest	172 A Phil Barnard	204 A Jo Thomas
141 A Lisa Tuttle	173 A David Swinden	205 A peter pinto
142 A John Stewart	174 A John Brunner	206 S Sylvie Denis
143 S Elsbeth Lindner	175 A Peter J Smith	207 A Justin Rogers
144 A Mary Horsfield	176 A Martin Hoare	208 A S Rachel Bailey
145 A Michael Horsfield	177 A Katie Hoare	(The Minstrel)
146 A Mike Moir	178 A Andy Mills	209 A Ramsey Campbell
147 A Debby Moir	179 A Roger Octon	210 A Jenny Campbell
148 A Mike Scantlebury	180 A Paul Paolini	211 A Tamsin Campbell
(Harry Nadler)	181 A Steve Mowbray	212 A Matthew Campbell
149 A Paul C Wilson	182 A Margaret Gordon	213 S Magnus Eriksson
150 S Keith Mitchell	183 A Terry Pyle	214 A Robert Pierce
151 A Kay Allan	184 A Saul Anthony Bura	215 A R Earnshaw
152 A Ray Thompson	185 A Trevor Bone	216 A David R Smith
153 A Robert J Sneddon	186 A Jenny Bone	217 A Philip Y S Chee
154 S Mike Molloy	187 A Lee Montgomerie	218 S Richard W Zellich
155 S Bruce Saville	188 A Anders Carlsson	219 A Thomas A Endrey
156 A Jeremy Johnson	189 S Feryal Rajah	220 A Richard A Slaughter
157 S Justin Ackroyd	(Feryal)	221 A James Cawthorn
158 A Andrew Rose	190 A Derek Holt	222 A Kamal Hashmi
159 A Malcolm Hodkin (M)	191 A Alan Blackley	223 A Patricia Ames
160 A Pam Wells	192 A Jenny Watson	(Melora Mac Aran)
161 A Paul Stewart	193 A John Peters	224 A Dave Harbud
162 A C R Laker	194 A David Angus	225 A Jim Braiden
163 A Phil	195 A Vicky Morland (The	226 A Philip Groves
Stephensen-Payne	Mistress of the	227 A Ron Gemmell
164 A Liz	Deadly Vortex)	228 A Paul Groom
Stephensen-Payne	196 A Hans-Ulrich	229 A Brian Magorrian
165 A Mal Ashworth	Boettcher	



YORCON III PR2 was edited by Simon Ounsley with design by Pete Lyon. Artwork by Pete Lyon (cover, p.5, and p.8) and D. West (pages 2, 6, and 11). Uncredited articles were by the editor. Printed by Ipsos, Leeds. November 1984.

CRECHE

We're planning to provide creche facilities in the Dragonara, complete with toys, video, "quiet" room, and two professional minders. Parents are, of course, welcome to lend a hand themselves from time to time, and to bring along a few toys of their own. The star attraction will be a magician on the Saturday afternoon, so that parents can get to watch the Guest of Honour speech.

A study of progress reports from other conventions reveals that parents are often too busy to write in and declare their interest in creche facilities. Please do let us know, either by writing to Rochelle Dorey at 22 Summerfield Drive, Greater Manchester M24 2WW or by indicating your interest on the hotel booking form. There will be a small charge of £2 per child for the weekend.

Please send all general enquiries regarding YORCON III to:

CHRISTINE DONALDSON, 46 COLWYN RD, BEESTON, LEEDS LS11 6PY

Registrations should be sent to Mike Ford (see form and address below).

<u>MEMBERSHIP RATES</u>	<u>to 31/12/84</u>	<u>(U.S.)</u>	<u>1/1/85 on</u>	<u>(U.S.)</u>	<u>at the door</u>
Supporting	£4	(\$8)	£6	(\$12)	
Attending	£8	(\$16)	£10	(\$20)	£12
Attending (unemployed)	£6	<i>(evidence of U.B. card at the convention)</i>			

REGISTRATION FORM

Please send this form, when completed, to Mike Ford, 45 Harold Mt, LEEDS LS6 1PW (or, in the US, to Mary Burns, 23 Kensington Court, Hempstead, NY11550)

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

Please fill in your real name above. If you wish an "alias" to appear on your convention badge, enter it here:

I require the following type of membership: Supporting ☐

Attending ☐

Conversion from Supporting to Attending ☐

I claim £1 credit for Pre-Supporting Membership ☐

I enclose £/\$ _____ (cheques etc payable to Yorcon III please)