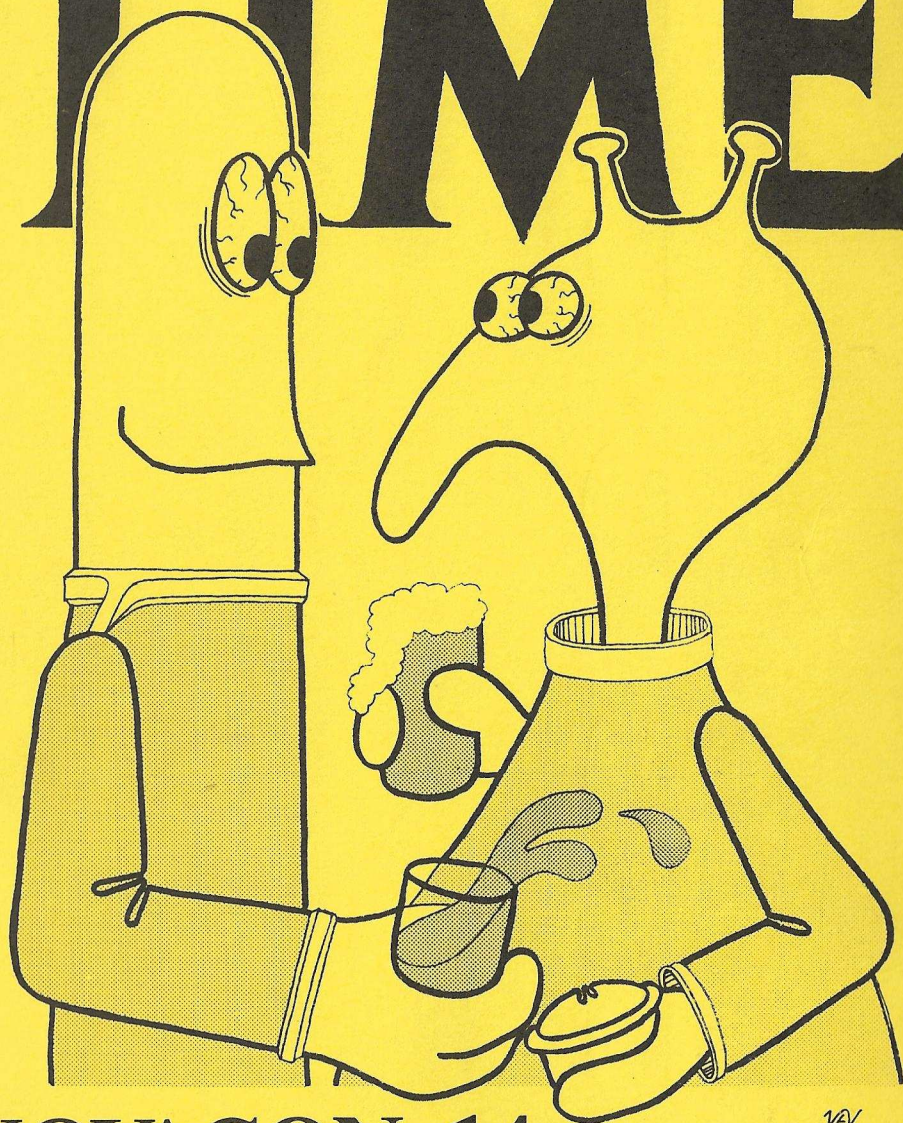


THE TAVERN AT THE END OF

TIME



NOVACON 14

KAY

the end of civilisation as we know it ?

FANDOM ETC. CONT.....

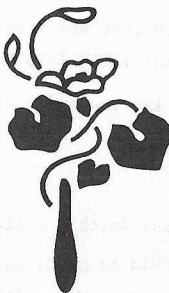
At our last committee meeting, we tentatively discussed the possibility of having a fan-room. Should we have one? No doubt many people would be very upset if Novacon began to 'look' like a fully-fledged Eastercon. Novacon is supposed to be an informal affair. A week-end long drinking bout with a few added distractions. However; and this is a big 'but'; there many people who not like getting very drunk and/or who like lots of programme items. This means that, almost every year, the committee is harangued with complaints that there were too many items, and that there were not enough!

So this year we propose to have a fan-room. Or rather, it will be called Not The Fan-Room! It will be run by Steve Green and his cohorts, as an informal drop-in centre. There may or may not be an actual programme, we leave that up to Steve. So if you have any ideas for that, get in touch with him.

Wanted:

GOPHERS: Every year it seems the same people volunteer for gopher duties. So isn't about time you volunteered this year? Your duties won't take up very much time, so don't worry about spending the whole con working. And gophers get a rather nice reward for their efforts.

AUCTION: Once again we do need auction material. Any unwanted posters, fanzines, books, that old FTL ship gathering dust in your garage..... So start digging!!





Pete

NOVACON 14
GUEST OF HONOUR
ROB HOLDSTOCK

NOVACON

is run annually by the
Birmingham Science Fiction Group

HONORARY PRESIDENTS:

BRIAN W ALDISS and
HARRY HARRISON.

Regular monthly meetings
since 1971.

Past speakers include;

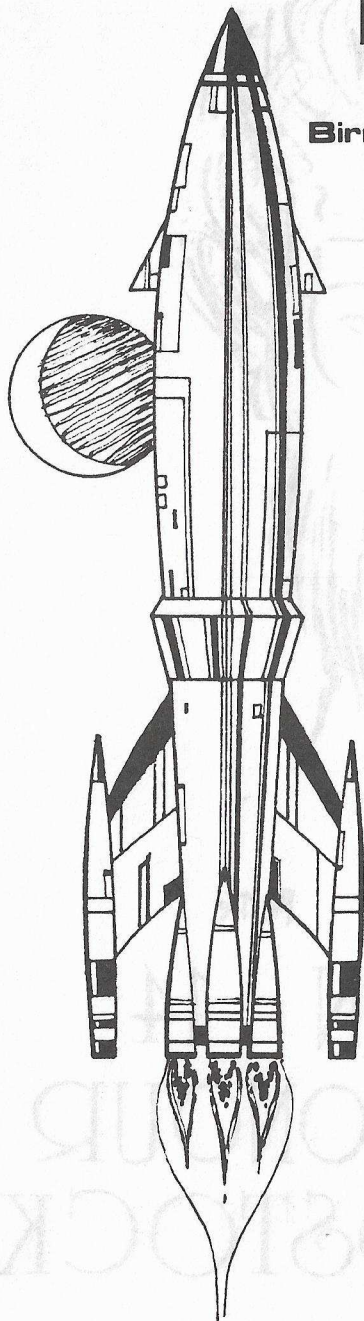
Brian Aldiss,
Isaac Asimov,
Tom Disch,
Harry Harrison,
Rob Holdstock,
Anne McCaffrey,
Larry Niven,
Fred Pohl,
Chris Priest,
Theodore Sturgeon,
etc etc.

Monthly newsletters
giving up to date
news and reviews.

Meets 3rd Friday of
each month - at The
New Imperial Hotel,
Temple Street,
Birmingham.

For details contact
ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP,
84 Suffolk Street,
Birmingham.
(021) 643 1999.

Non-members welcome !



NOVACON 14

9--11 November 1984

Grand Hotel Birmingham

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Another Novacon, another Novacon. And, worse luck, another Novacon chairman's introductory disclaimer. So well-worn are the steps I now tread, I begin to wonder if the Brum Group should perhaps consider producing a standard programme book prologue with spaces for the insertion of appropriate names and multiple choice boxes for the current libels. The event starts to resemble nothing so much as those fading MGM musicals where Micky and Judy kick open the doors of a deserted ~~novel~~ barn and cry "Hey, let's hold a ~~science fiction convention~~ show!"; only the guilty parties named in the credit sequences change from movie to movie.

Cue soundtrack, roll titles, action.....

NOVACON FOURTEEN

A BSFG/Disunited Artists Production

Starring:

(In alphabetical order)

KEVIN CLARKE DAVE HADEN
ANN GREEN STEVE GREEN
EUNICE PEARSON PHILL PROBERT
MARTIN TUDOR PAUL VINCENT

Guest Star:

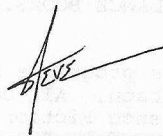
ROB HOLDSTOCK as The Worried Man In The False Beard

Special thanks to:

KEVIN DIXON, ROG PEYTON, YE GERBISH, VINZ CLARKE, TIM ILLINGWORTH, JOHN DALLMAN, CHRIS EVANS, MALCOLM EDWARDS, GARRY KILWORTH, DAVE LANGFORD, JOHN BROSNAN, PETE LYON, ALEX STEWART, JOHN BRUNNER, IAN SORESENSEN & THE ALBACON COMMITTEE, ANNE PAGE, CATH EASTHOPE, DAVE BRIDGES, MATT BROOKER, RUTH WILSON & THE STAFF OF THE GRAND HOTEL, AND EVERYONE ELSE JOINING IN THE FUN OF THE DAY EITHER AS A GOPHER, GUEST SPEAKER OR BY BUYING THE COMMITTEE A DRINK.

Music by FREE FALL and IZZY THE PUSH

Filmed on location in Birmingham



Course, if it's a roaring success there'll have to be a sequel.....

THE COMMITTEE

by themselves

MARTIN TUDOR by Paul Vincent

Currently a callow youth of some fifteen summers, MT is a fan of the hyperactive persuasion. His whirlwind enthusiasm for EVERYTHING, together with his complete inability to say "no", portend a future whose milestones will include reaching retirement age around 1987, whereupon he will culminate his fannish career by expiring at the British Worldcon in order to be melted down and sold as amphetamines. Since entering fandom in early 1983, Martin's activities have included: helping to run Seacon '84 (no-one's perfect), insanely increasing circulation of his 'Empties' fanzine to the 400+ mark, falling into cataleptic trances whilst eating curry, demolishing hotel bedrooms at increasingly manic convention parties, leaping headlong into the Britain in '87 Worldcon bid, terrorising vicious rabbits, founding the MiSFiTs whilst allowing PV to take the credit, drinking to triple-excess, signing the pledge, then drinking to quadruple-excess..... Clearly this man needs help. so if you espy a harassed-looking dustcloud moving through the con at Mach II, thrust a drink inot its hand, give it a rubdown with a wet towel, and Martin will be your friend for life.....if he can keep still long enough, that it!

PAUL VINCENT by Eunice Pearson.

It's difficult to know what to say about Paul. I know him as a fan, but as an ordinary human being I know him not at all. He is very good at keeping himself to himself, yet can write excellent articles about himself. What a confusing person! Paul is definately the quieter one of the Tudor-Vincent duo. He gives the impression of being merely dragged along in Martin's manic wake. But its all a disguise. He waits until people are overcome by Martin's energy, and slips 'em a copy of 'Abdump' beofre they've had time to draw a breath. Then he's off, clutching a pint glass (preferably a full one) to fool the next victim. Paul says he is very, very fond of this 'real ale' stuff, but I ve never seen him any the worse for wear. So either he's got hollow legs, or its all just part of his disguise! Because he is so quiet-minded, he is likely to be around in fandom for a long, long, long time yet, thank goodness!

ANN GREEN by Dave Haden

Ann's interesting organizational abilities first came to my attention in a small and somewhat dingy marquee at the annual Merthyr Hampster Trials. After identifying her from behind as a giant variety of the aforesaid furry mammal, I realized my mistake and proceeded to enquire in an embarrassed manner about her interest in hamsters. She replied with an interesting and lengthy discourse on the training and organization of hamsters to do simple manual work and to overcome cats with a combination of karate and readings from Lionel L Panthorpe. Suffice to say, I was astounded by the originality and insight that her conversation afforded me into the hidden life of the common hamster. I managed to persuade her to have her ideas printed in booklet form, and "Liberation And Self Defence For Hamsters" is soon to enter it's fifteenth printing. She has since married Steven J Green and lives in a small hamster/human co-operative in Acocks Green.

EUNICE PEARSON BY Kevin Clarke

"Squirrel" is known for her bright red rosey cheeks (I don't know why she is called that -- perhaps it's an oblique reference to her predilection for nuts (I always wondered what she saw in Phill)). She almost perpetually wears a broad smile, framed by those cheeks, creating an image which irresistably reminds me of the cheerful, homeloving characters employed in clotted-cream commercials. It is an effect which makes it hard to believe that she is in fact, one of the most wanted characters in Brum fandom. Yes, it must at last be revealed that she has, during her editing career, been the brains behind many of the more heinous examples of fan fiction this decade. She is also wanted for her voluptuous body, a fact of which no secret has been made by one Steve "Mr Big One" Green which accounts for the dents in his head, corresponding to the knuckles of his moll, Ann.

KEVIN CLARKE by Ann Green

Over the last year I have become increasingly fond of Kevin. A rather compact and not un-furry chap, he has endeared himself to many in his short career. Kevin has a wry sense of humour calculated to mislead people to the impression that he's thick. Not so, I tell you. He is a person of rare and wonderful talent. How I miss Kevin at weekends; his absence makes even the juiciest Jaffa less sweet, even the cracklier of pops less snappy. Still I guess he and Roland have to spend some times away from the cameras to re-charge their sparkling wit. (Whaddya mean, Kevin Clarke? Look, you said write something about 'Kevin', so I did. I know gerbils aint quite hamsters, but I'm no racist.)

PHILL PROBERT by Steve Green

Although a relative newcomer to the Novacon 14 committee in title, Phill has been involved with the organization of the event both in an advisory and more recently logistical capacity since stepping down as chairman of its predecessor; indeed, if Phill hadn't drafted me onto Novacon 13's alternative programme I probably wouldn't have ended up his successor, so know you know who to blame. Dubious charac-

-ter judgement apart, Phill is an imaginative and energetic aide, bringing to this committee the accumulated experience of three Novacons and a valuable talent for spotting the potential flaws in any argument whenever his colleagues get carried away. Phill is also the proud father of two cats, which undoubtedly came as a great surprise to Eunice.

DAVE HADEN by Steve Green

How best to illustrate my deep regard for Dave Haden? To recall perhaps the occasion he brightened one dark day during the Falklands Fiasco by anonymously dispatching forged draft papers calling me up for service in the South Atlantic ("you are asked to provide your own penguin suit"). Or maybe the time he invited me on a "short walk" across the countryside near his Warwickshire home and proceeded to lead me on a three-month circumnavigation of the British coastline. Well, perhaps I do exaggerate, but both incidents serve as evidence of Dave's unpredictability and bizarre sense of humour, elements also noticeable in his artwork. Equally, the fact that I took both with a grin rather than a grimace is proof of the tolerant loyalty he engenders in his friends.

And last but not at least in this rather different committee introduction is our great chairman,

STEVE GREEN by Phill Probert

What can be said about Steve Green that someone hasn't already said? Well, I could tell you about the time I first met him, but that has already been done. I could tell you all of some deep insight into Steve that only I know about. But he probably has something the same to be said about me. I could even tell you what a really great and wonderful guy he is, but you know that already. So in the end I am forced to write about what I don't know about Steve. For instance, I didn't meet him at school and had never even heard of him until his name was mentioned on Police 5. And I didn't know until a few days ago that he has a pet anaconda called Norman, who he likes to use as a door stop. Or even that his home in Acocks Green is the Birmingham location of the super secret organization, TerraHawks. (I always wondered why he walked funny, but I thought it was the drink.) And as for his fannish exploits, he was the first fan to say the word "Splosh" in the literal and gratuitous sense of the word. Or even that he was going to launch a manned mission to the sun. He was going to take off at night so he wouldn't get burnt. In any case, he didn't go because he couldn't light the blue touch paper. And there you have it. Everything I don't know about Steve. Go and buy him a drink, he deserves it!

A SPACE ODDITY

BY D'ISRAELI D' DEMON DRAUGHTSMAN

THE STARSHIP "LONG-DROP,"
BOMBING ALONG AT AN
OUTRAGEOUS MULTIPLE OF
LIGHT SPEED...

ABOARD,
CAPTAIN RICK
HANDSOME...

... AND HIS VEGAN
CO-PILOT, FRUITS-
DE-MER. ALL
VEGANS ARE CALLED
FRUITS-DE-MER, BUT
NO-ONE KNOWS WHY.

NO-ONE
CARES,
EITHER.

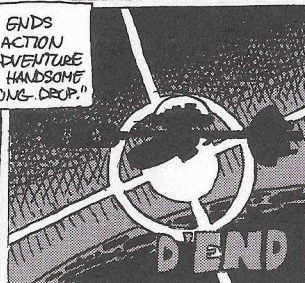
SUDDENLY !!!!!



HEY, FRUITS... IT'S
BORING, INNIT,
FRUITS?

YESSUM,
BOSS!

... AND SO ENDS
ANOTHER ACTION-
PACKED ADVENTURE
WITH RICK HANDSOME
AND THE "LONG-DROP."



ROB HOLDSTOCK

THE MAN THE MYTH & THE MONSTER



Monster? Who
let that in?

• CATH 2 • 84 •



RH: MANIAC OR MYTH?

I have known Rob Holdstock, man and boy (respectively), for fourteen years now. At the same time we met we were both student science fiction fans with professional ambitions; he had taken the first step with a sale to NEW WORLDS ("Pauper's Plot", tastefully adorned with pictures of a huge calloused foot -- not the author's. I once met a teacher who taught it in her English classes, but that's another story). Now we've written six books together (a small proportion of his total), and I'm his hardback editor. Somehow we have managed to remain friends. I can tell you that he is a better badminton player than me, but a worse pool player. I can tell you that he is perpetually entertaining, loyal, generous, paranoid, ludicrously disorganized about money, perpetually broke, indecisive, impossibly romantic, totally insufferable and absolutely indispensable.

He is also an exemplary Professional Writer, in the best sense. Many writers regard deadlines as rough indicators of the time to start working; Rob sweats blood to meet them, and usually does (this makes collaborating with him a test of nerve, since I am the procrastinating type). He is incapable of delivering hackwork, by which I mean contemptuous, barely adequate stuff. You can tell at a glance which of the PROFESSIONALS novelizations are his, for instance: the others are full of short lines, one sentence paragraphs, all the other professional tricks used to make a novel out of as few words as possible; Rob's are packed with meaty dialogue and description, giving the best value for money he can.

His best work is his latest, MYTHAGO WOOD. You may have read the short story, but it won't have prepared you for the way he develops the ideas into a novel of truly breathtaking sweep. It's a breakthrough for him in all senses, not least that it will be a lead title from Granada Paperbacks in early 1986 (a lead title means promotion, publicity, sales: a leap out of the ghetto). But you don't want to wait until then: buy the hardback, a bargain, a book you'll want to keep and reread and treasure. (Advt.) Buy it this weekend and he'll inscribe it for you. I could tell you about some of the truly revolting and obscene inscriptions he has inflicted on his friends over the years ... but that's another story.

MALCOLM EDWARDS



THE LEGEND OF ROBERT P. HOLDSTOCK

BY M. WOOD

The research that Mr. Wood has carried out on that mythological character Robert 'The Celt' Holdstock has been both thorough and revealing. That Robert Holdstock was a man of almost limitless energy, who filled the landscape of his period with his tall, broad frame, who wielded a pen like a warrior flourishes his broadsword, who burned his way into folk literature with the fire of his prose, is common knowledge. What is less evident in the myth and magic surrounding this teller of tales, this campfire weaver of spellbinding stories, is that apart from being a language-bearer of dreamlike qualities, he was always kind to his cat Finnigan, and sometimes to his friend Garry Kilworth.

Mr. Wood says of him, "One has only to analyse the magnificent poetry of stories like 'Earth and Stone' and novels like 'Earthwind' to realise that here was a man who could translate the elements into something beyond mere substance; who could infuse inanimates with a life and magic of their own; whose characters cast tall shadows on the backdrop of fantastical scenery; who was kind to his cat and occasionally....."

There are other darker pieces of information which emerge of course, which barely seem credible given the type of man-myth Mr. Wood describes in the early part of his book. I think we can discount the tales that Holdstock was supposed to have been a wassailer of boundless depth and that his mere presence would cause waternymphs to submerge in an ecstasy of delightful terror. What is apparent is that 'The Celt' produced works which remain indelibly printed in the subconscious to be thrown up into the conscious at awkward moments, like when one is walking through a forest at midnight, while the wind is winding dark clouds into the branches of trees, and accidentally treads on a sleeping cat.....

GARRY KILWORTH



THE REAL ROB

HOLDSTOCK

1. HAVE YOU GOT A NICKNAME?

"In a way, Rob is my nickname. At school I was Holdie, or Hollyock a reference to my immense height, compared to my weedy, waist high colleagues). I notice that when my female intimates becom.....what shall we say?...very 'cosy' with me, they call me Robbie. I don't know why. My last brief flingette called me 'Boobetta', and that thoroughly confused me, indeed still does. "Why on earth did you call me that?" I asked her and she shrugged and said, "I don't know. I suppose it's just that you're my very special Boobie". I think my response was "Good Grief", followed by a sigh of complete bemusement. All this is true. I seem to be the sort of person who attract brief 'nicknames', but always ends up being called Holdstock. My lady of the moment refers to me as 'Gorgeous' and I have no complaints!"

2. WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

"What a question to ask me. My entire life is one long extravagance. How can I pick a special example? One of my favourite extravagances is to buy and consume an entire half leg of pork or lamb (usually inspired by reading Asterix the Gaul, and getting hungry at the sight of them eating roast boar). I'm extravagant with my time, the perennial writer's problem. I'm extravagant on the 'phone (£200 a quater). I'm certainly extravagant in the indulging of my passions, especially music."

3. WHAT DO YOUR SLIPPERS LOOK LIKE?

"I don't wear slippers. I do a lot of hiking and walking and have accumulated several pairs of long, woollen socks. When I get up in the morning I pull on the floppy gray pair. If it's a very cold day I pull the knee length green pair over the top of them. These winter days I pull a second pair of gray floppies over them, tuck my jeans into the green pair and walk around looking foolish but warm. The hell of this 'graded slipper substitute' is that when I want to go out I either have to put on size-thirteen walking boots, or strip the layers down and tug on ordinary thin socks. It gets very fussy."

4. DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

"No. Lust at first sight, yes. A recognition of potential love at first sight, yes. But love at first sight, no. My longest, at the moment deepest love, began because she thought I was a doctor, and she got hooked on the image and the idea. By the end of the evening she was disillusioned on that score, but had fallen for the lazy, good-for-nothing zoologist she'd found beneath."

5. DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH?

"Someone dies, everyone else lives on. I suppose, therefore, there is life after death. I certainly believe that some aspects of some people who die, lives on, restless spirits, etc. I very much believe in 'ghosts'. My current conviction, unshakeable even if unprovable, is that the Hindus have it right, and the life-spirit is reborn soon after passing from the body."

6. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DYING?

"I'm far too young to have feelings about dying. I'd like to be able to choose the moment, and be surrounded by cheerful family and friends. I'd also like to reincarnate backwards, and return as a Celtic Warlord, turning back the tide of the Romans. I'd restructure history."

7. DO YOU THINK THERE IS LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS?

"Yes. During the recent Genesis versus Evolution in schools trial in America, an Asian astronomer said that the chances of 'life forming' were the same as creating a Boeing 727 out of a lot of scrap metal blown about by a high wind in an air-craft hanger. I was rather frightened by that thought at the time until I realized that if it could happen once, it can certainly happen a million times, and any planet with Boeing 727's flying around has to have life -- the passengers -- otherwise what's the point?"

8. WHAT DO YOU WEAR IN BED?

"Nothing. Absolutely nothing. (If you don't believe me....) Except that I put on three pairs of hiking socks. One on my feet of course."

9. IF THERE IS SUCH A PLACE AS HEAVEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS LIKE?

"I know what it's like, and you're far too young and I'm far too shy to tell you just yet!"

10. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE BEEN BORN FEMALE INSTEAD OF MALE?

"Good grief no. I love to be dominated."

11. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF MUSIC OR SONG?

"This changes all the time. At the moment I play excessively: Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart's C minor Mass, and Horslip's Tain bo Cuilgne."

12. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART?

"I don't have such a thing. I love English landscapes, most of Turner, and particularly the Pre-Raphaelites. The only pictures I have up in my bedroom are sketches by Rossetti of two women. They're fabulous, totally absorbing sketches."

13. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR STORY?

"Naomi Mitcheson's *The Conquered*. It's the only book to really have moved me, and to have affected me. I became passionately keen on other books, novels, stories occasionally, but that one stands out. I don't know why. It's raw, uneven, ragged in pieces, but it has a verve and an emotional edge that is instantly recognisable as 'a young, new writer's voice' (she was twenty when she wrote it) writing about a subject of passionate interest."

14. DO YOU PREFER CATS OR DOGS?

"Cats. Small, cuddly cats that feed themselves, and don't become a nuisance. I hate dogs."

15. IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT ERA WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

"The late Bronze Age in England (or whatever they called it at the time). I'd love to be there when the Celts began their migrations. I'd fight in the battles, make love to the princesses and priestesses, and become a folk hero: Robert Ironankles or somesuch. Nothing frustrates me more than not knowing what it was like in those days. They were disease-free, hardy, romantic and artistic in those days. I'd sneak a camera back of course, steal a few souls."

16. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE ASPECT OF YOURSELF, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

"My shortsightedness. Maybe my left hip. Maybe my memory. Odd bits and pieces could do with a slight restructuring. I could do with a few extra charisma cells, but I'm not complaining."

17. IF YOU COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH A FAMOUS PERSON, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

"Vercingetorix, the Gaulish warrior. Or are you bored with all this Celtic stuff? Ok. Clint Eastwood. But it would have to be a temporary change and he'd have to be filming a Western. But if I had any chance at all of changing places with someone, it would be my Aunt Mary (who's 84), just so I could bask in her family memories for a few hours and see what it was like in Kent, at the turn of the century and onwards."

18. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SOAP OPERA?

"Soap. Honest."

19. WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OF CHRISTMAS?

"Christmas is a f--king drag."

20. DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TOY YOU EVER HAD?

"Rupert Bear. I have a photograph of me at the age of six months, chewing him. I remember Rupert very clearly. He's locked away in my parent's attic now, and no doubt slimy funguses are growing on that childish Hollyhock saliva."

ROB HOLDSTOCK:

THE OFFICIAL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

fiction

by the real Robert Holdstock:-

EARTHWIND (Faber & Faber 1977) Novel

EYE AMONG THE BLIND (Faber & Faber 1976) Novel

IN THE VALLEY OF THE STATUES (Faber & Faber 1982) Collection

MYTHAGO WOOD (Gollancz 1984) Novel

NECROMANCER (Futura 1978) Novel

WHERE TIME WINDS BLOW (Faber & Faber 1981) Novel

with MURRAY SMITH (scriptwriter):-

BULMAN 1 (Futura -- forthcoming) Novelisation

BULMAN 2: ONE OF OUR PIGEONS IS MISSING (Futura -- forthcoming)
Novelisation

as Robert Faulcon:-

NIGHT HUNTER 1: THE STALKING (Arrow 1983) Novel

NIGHT HUNTER 2: THE TALISMAN (Arrow 1983) Novel

NIGHT HUNTER 3: THE GHOST DANCE (Arrow 1984) Novel

NIGHT HUNTER 4: THE SHRINE (Arrow 1984) Novel

NIGHT HUNTER 5: THE HEXING (Arrow -- forthcoming) Novel

NIGHT HUNTER 6: THE LABYRINTH (Arrow -- forthcoming) Novel

as Chris Carlsen:-

BERSERKER 1: THE SHADOW OF THE WOLF (Sphere 1977) Novel

BERSERKER 2: THE BULL CHIEF (Sphere 1977) Novel

BERSERKER 3: THE HORNED WARRIOR (Sphere 1979) Novel

as Richard Kirk:-

RAVEN 1: SWORDSMISTRESS OF CHAOS (Corgi 1978) Novel, with Angus Wells

RAVEN 2: A TIME OF GHOSTS (Corgi 1978) Novel

RAVEN 4: LORDS OF THE SHADOWS (Corgi 1979) Novel

(Note: Vols 3 and 5, THE FROZEN GOD and A TIME OF DYING were written by Angus Wells.)

as Robert Black:-

LEGEND OF THE WAREWOLF (Sphere 1976) Novelisation

THE SATANISTS (Futura 1978) Novelisation

as Ken Blake:-

PROFESSIONALS 10: CRY WOLF (Sphere 1981) Novelisation

PROFESSIONALS 13: THE UNTOUCHABLES (Sphere 1982) Novelisation

PROFESSIONALS 14: OPERATION SUSIE (Sphere 1982) Novelisation

PROFESSIONALS 15: YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT (Sphere 1982) Novelisation

With Christopher Priest (edited):-

STARS OF ALBION (Pan 1979)

illustrated books

with MALCOLM EDWARDS:-

ALIEN LANDSCAPES (Pierror 1979)

LOST REALMS OF FANTASY (Dragon's World -- forthcoming)

MAGICIAN (Dragon's World 1982)

REALMS OF FANTASY (Dragon's World 1983)

TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE (Pierrot 1980)

as Steven Eisler:-

THE ALIEN WORLD (Octopus 1980)

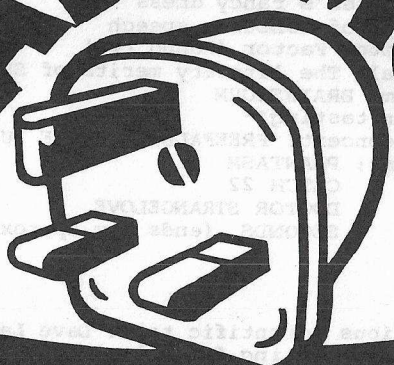
SPACE WARS, WORLDS AND WEAPONS (Octopus 1979)

In addition to the above there is a novella titles THE DARK WHEEL included in the computer game ELITE (Acornsoft 1984).

**THIS IS A PLUG
FOR THE FOURTH BOOK
IN THE HITCHHIKER TRILOGY**

DOUGLAS

ADAMS



**SO LONG,
AND THANKS
FOR ALL THE FISH.**

Published: 23 November 1984

 **Pan Books**

The Programme

FRIDAY:

6pm	Film: SILENT RUNNING
8.30pm	Opening ceremony
9pm	Krapton Factor (Round one)
10pm	Brum Group party*
12md	Film: ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

SATURDAY:

10.30am	Speaker
11.30am	University Challenge
12.30pm	Book auction
2.30pm	Children's fancy dress
3pm	Guest of Honour's speech
4.30pm	Krapton Factor (Round two)
5.30pm	Panel: The literary merits of SF
6.30pm	Film: BRAINSTORM
8.30pm	Beer tasting**
10pm	In concert: FREEFALL/IZZY THE PUSH
12md	Films: PHANTASM
	CATCH 22
	DOCTOR STRANGELOVE
	SECONDS (ends 8am approx.)

SUNDAY:

11am	Serious scientific talk: Dave Langford
12nn	Panel: Writing for a living
1pm	Art auction
3.30pm	Worldcon spotlight
4pm	Panel: Art for art's sake?
5.30pm	Krapton Factor (Finals)
7pm	Nova Awards / Closing ceremony
9pm	Films: THEM!
	FAIL SAFE

All times provisional and subject to change; events will be held in the Grosvenor Suite, except:

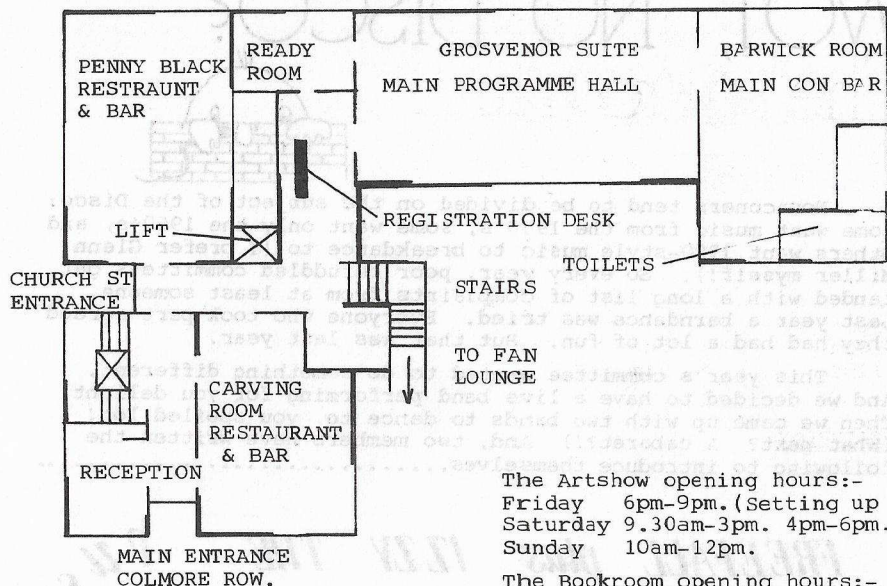
* Barwick Room

** Windsor 1

Events in the Fan Lounge and access facility will be announced.

GROUND FLOOR.

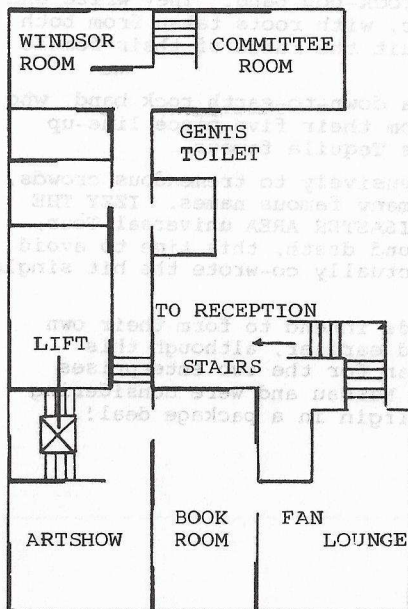
GRAND HOTEL



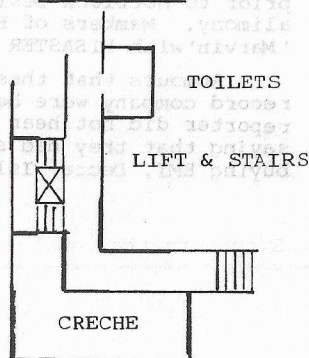
The Artshow opening hours:-
 Friday 6pm-9pm. (Setting up only)
 Saturday 9.30am-3pm. 4pm-6pm.
 Sunday 10am-12pm.

The Bookroom opening hours:-
 Friday 3pm-6pm
 Saturday 9.30am-3pm. 4pm-6pm.
 Sunday 10am-6pm

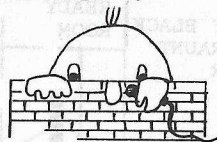
MEZZANINE FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



WOT, NO DISCO?



Novaconers tend to be divided on the subject of the Disco: some want music from the 1950's, some want only the 1960's, and others want 1980-style music to breakdance to (I prefer Glenn Miller myself!). So every year, poor befuddled committees get landed with a long list of complaints from at least someone. Last year a barndance was tried. Everyone who took part agreed they had had a lot of fun. But that was last year.

This year's committee wanted to do something different. And we decided to have a live band performing for you delight. Then we came up with two bands to dance to, you spoiled lot! (What next? A cabaret?!) And, two members have written the following to introduce themselves.....

FREEFALL plus IZZY THE PUSH

FREEFALL were formed in early 1984 from the remains of SHADY DEALS, whereas IZZY THE PUSH were not; they arose from the ashes of ABOW and HAMBURGER MARY in 1982. All three defuncts were well-respected Birmingham bands during the early 1980's.

FREEFALL are a four piece rock-pop band. They write and perform their own style of music, with roots taken from both progressive rock and folk, to suit the range of their female lead vocalist, Kate.

IZZY THE PUSH are more of a down-to-earth rock band, who turn out high-energy numbers from their five piece line-up with the sort of punch that made Tequila famous.

Both bands have gigged extensively to tremendous crowds, and have known and played with many famous names. IZZY THE PUSH were supporting the last DISASTER AREA universal Tour, prior to Hotblack Desiata's second death, this time to avoid alimony. Members of FREEFALL actually co-wrote the hit single 'Marvin' with DISASTER AREA.

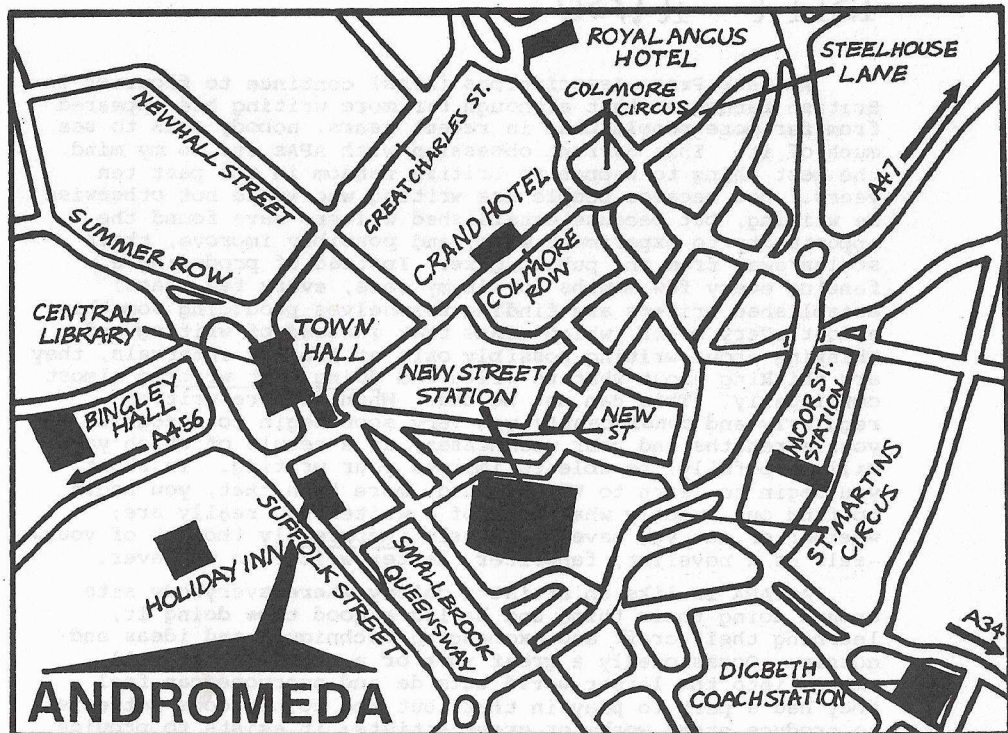
Rumours that these two bands intend to form their own record company were hotly denied earlier, although this reporter did not hear a spokesman for the two enterprises saying that they had studios in Nassau and were considering buying EMI, Decca, Island and Virgin in a package deal!

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I asked Dave Bridges to write something for the programme book on the subject of some aspect of 1984 that had interested him. (Well I couldn't let that year go by without some comment.) And this is what he came up with.....

1984? That's next year isn't it?

Amateur Press Associations (APAs) continue to flourish in British fandom so that although far more writing has appeared from far more people than in recent years, nobody gets to see much of it. This current obsession with APAs is, to my mind, the best thing to happen to British fandom in the past ten years. Not because people are writing who would not otherwise be writing, but because established writers have found the opportunity to experiment with, and possibly improve, their styles away from the public gaze. Instead of producing a fanzine every few months (or in my case, every few years) established writers are finding themselves producing something almost every month, which means that instead of writing and thinking about writing possibly only at lengthy intervals, they are thinking about what to write and doing that writing almost continually. This can not be bad. When you are writing regularly and consistently you very soon begin to recognize your strengths and your weaknesses, as a result of which you will (hopefully) be able to improve your writing. In short, you begin to learn to WRITE. And, more than that, you begin to find out exactly what sort of a writer you really are; whether or not you have previously incorrectly thought of yourself as a novelist, fanwriter, letter writer or whatever.

An APA is like an artist's colony where everybody sits around doing their thing and having a good time doing it, learning their craft and exchanging techniques and ideas and gossip. Occasionally a great work or a great artist will emerge into the larger world outside and everyone can feel they had a part to play in that, but the colony does not exist to produce great works or great artists: it exists to provide an environment where the artist can be free to pursue his or her own path.

In addition to this, APAs appeal to fans because they provide a publishing outlet. Fanzine fans are the people in whom the compulsion to write is matched only by their compulsion to publish what they write. An APA provides an outlet which enables the writer to experiment freely, sure in the knowledge that anything they write (or almost anything they write) will be locked away in time, like their diaries and note-books of the past, where they cannot come leaping out to confront the embarrassed author (as all too often happens with

fanzines we once did and now wish we hadn't. All right. Fanzines that I once did that I now wish I hadn't.) And of course, fans being their own best friends, anything which they think is worthy of a wider audience will find its way out of the APA in one way or another. My own next fanzine, for example, will undoubtedly contain a fair amount of material which saw its first draft in an APA.

APAs do tend to remove writers from circulation for a while, but this is good because it not only gives someone else a chance to fill the gap, but it also enables the writer to come back to the wider world refreshed with new thoughts and new methods. And of course we must not overlook the number of writers who have come to fandom, and the fans who have come to writing, as a result of their involvement with APAs. Naturally there will be people who fall into the APA world and never emerge, simply because they have found their speciality and that speciality is writing for APAs, but then you get other people leaving the wider world of fandom for other enclaves all the time anyway, and so long as you are happy doing what you do, it doesn't matter that you no longer do it publically. Besides, if you feel that your life has become poorer because your favourite writer has joined an APA that you have not joined, there is nothing to prevent you asking that writer if they would kindly consider letting you read some of their stuff. I mean, most fans would be bowled over to think you regard their work so highly, and you'd make a friend for life. If they are not already friends for life anyway, that is.

So, what would I predict for the coming year in British Fanzine Fandom? Well, I think we are going to be seeing fanzines that are actually exciting to read, because the people writing them will be using only their best material (even if some of it IS reprinted from their APA pieces) since undoubtedly they have already used their second-best material for APA contributions. Also I think we will see a lot more fanzines than we have of late because the people in APAs who have not produced a general circulation fanzine for some time will begin to find themselves needing that greater and more diverse audience for their work.

...And to think that not so long ago I spent most of a convention arguing with Linda Pickersgill about the merits and demerits of APAs. Now, Linda had realized that British Fandom Needed APAs Like It Had Never Needed Anything Before, and was consequently trying to re-introduce them to the country, and I was convinced that she was Out To Ruin Fandom As We Knew It. Well of course she was. I just did not realize then that it was to be A Good Thing; that fanzine fandom NEEDED this kind of a revolution to stir some life back into it.

(Well, anyway, this is MY feeble excuse for not having produced a fanzine for well over a year. What's YOUR feeble excuse?)

DAVE BRIDGES

The Nova Awards

Started in 1973 by the late Gillon Field, and presented annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group, the NOVA award was, until 1981, given to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best Of The Year'. As from that year, the single award was joined by two further NOVA awards, these being for Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Artist..

Initially, the winner of the award was determined by a panel of judges consisting of experienced fanzine fans, but in recent years all this has changed; the current system enables all active fanzine fans (this means YOU!) to vote for their favourites in each category. Voting forms are available at the registration desk, where you will also find a ballot box into which all completed forms should be placed. If you are eligible to vote, according to the simple criteria given on the voting form, then please USE YOUR VOTE! By doing so, you will help to make the awards as representative as possible of fandom-at-large.

As for the awards themselves, every year has seen a different design. The first year's award was created by Gillon Field, and since then, design and construction has been by the Brum Group's very own Ray Bradbury.

PAUL VINCENT

- 1973 PETER WESTON for Speculation
- 1974 LISA CONESA for Zimri
JOHN BROSINAN for Big Scab (Tie)
- 1975 ROB JACKSON for Maya
- 1976 ROB JACKSON for Maya
- 1977 DAVE LANGFORD for Twll-Ddu
- 1978 ALAN DOREY for Gross Encounters
- 1979 SIMONE WALSH for Seamonsters
- 1980 DAVE BRIDGES for One-Off
- 1981 Best Fanzine = MALCOLM EDWARDS for Tappen
Best Writer = CHRIS ATKINSON
Best Artist = PETE LYON
- 1982 Best Fanzine = ROB HANSEN for Epsilon
Best Writer = CHRIS ATKINSON
Best Artist = ROB HANSEN
- 1983 Best Fanzine = DAVE BRIDGES for A Cool Head
Best Writer = DAVE BRIDGES
Best Artist = MARGARET WELBANK

The Coff Award

In a dark and dingy little pub on the outskirts of Solihull, Kev Clarke put down his beer and gazed levelly round the crowded table.

"Let's give Steve Green an award " he said.

We all looked horrified.

"For best writer?" Steve prompted.

"No, a concrete overcoat for your services to fandom" Kev said, with an evil look in his eyes.

Steve looked hurt as Kev continued;

"There should be a new award. With TAFF and GUFF you vote for the people you like the best. Yet nothing is done for a person who is a real pain in the duplicators."

"How would one vote?" some fascinated person said.

"Simple! All votes would cost 10p and you could vote as often as you like for whoever you don't like!"

With that, COFF began. The essence of COFF is that it goes to the fan judged by fandom as most deserving to be embossed in a concrete overcoat and thrown into the nearest canal. However, since no one has come up with a practical way of shifting half-a-ton of concrete, the award will be a symbolic presentation at Novacon.

So far, the winners (losers?) have been:

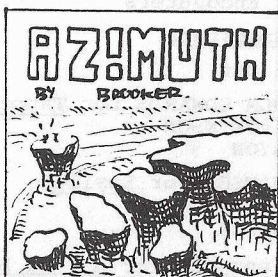
1982 The Fake Bob Shaw

1983 Simon Polley

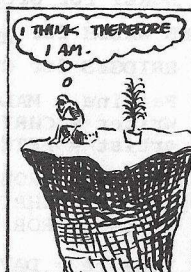
Remember, to come second in this award means that you are a failure even at being a failure!

PS. Steve Green still hasn't won it!

PHILL PROBERT



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THE HISTORY OF NOVACON

NOVACON	HOTEL	GUEST OF HONOUR	CHAIRMAN	ATTENDANCE*
	Imperial Centre	JAMES WHITE	Vernon Brown	144
(Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate)				
2	Imperial Centre	DOREEN ROGERS	Pauline Dungate	144
(Committee: Sten Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds)				
3	Imperial Centre	KEN BULMER	Hazel Reynolds	146
(Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman)				
4	Imperial Centre	KEN SLATER	Dr Jack Cohen	211
(Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds)				
5	Royal Angus	DAN MORGAN	Rog Peyton	272
(Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton)				
6	Royal Angus	DAVE KYLE	Stan Eling	317
(Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton)				
7	Royal Angus	JOHN BRUNNER	Stan Eling	278
(Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford)				
8	Holiday Inn	ANNE McCAFFREY	Laurence Miller	309
(Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Watson, Jackie Wright)				
9	Royal Angus	CHRIS PRIEST	Rog Peyton	290
(Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd)				

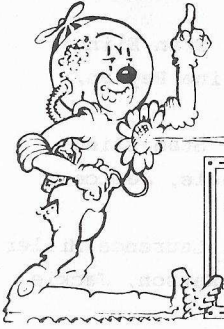
10	Royal Angus	BRIAN ALDISS	Rog Peyton	495
(Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton)				
11	Royal Angus	BOB SHAW	Paul Oldroyd	362
(Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nichlas, Phill Probert)				
12	Royal Angus	HARRY HARRISON	Rog Peyton	373
(Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phill Probert)				
13	Royal Angus	LISA TUTTLE	Phill Probert	339
(Committee: Chris Donaldson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Eunice Pearson, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes)				
14	Grand Hotel	ROB HOLDSTOCK	Steve Green	333
(Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phill Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent)				

*Numbers taken from each programme book. This is not necessarily the complete total.



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THE ORGANIZATION (AKA APA-B)

The Organization began in June 1983 and was then known as apa-B. It was thought that since a few Brum group members were already producing fanzines, it would be a good idea to encourage those less experienced in the fan-publishing world. As the then-chairman, Pete Weston, wrote for the June newsletter, "Writing and publishing is a splendid creative activity, that sharpens the intellect and quickens the wits."

Cathryn Easthope was the apa's first administrator. And she did an excellent job, despite a few teething troubles. It is due to her good work that we're still around today, even though our membership has dropped to ten! For all we're a small group, we all try to produce something regularly. The results are often a little unusual, but always interesting! Especially since each mailing is collated at the monthly MiSFits meeting. It can get crowded in the General Wolfe, what with the Aston university crowd and we more vocal people! So the administrator needs a firm way with them to get the apa put together among the pints and the gossip.

Even though there are a lot of advantages to being a small group, we are interested in getting in some more members. We certainly don't want to get stale! So if anyone is interested in joining a friendly apa, (especially after reading Dave Bridge's article on apas elsewhere in this book) why not send a £5 to me at 32 Digby House, Colletts Grove, Kingshurst, Birmingham B37 6JE. That entitles you to membership of The Organization for a year, plus a membership of the Brum group for a year. For that you get our newsletters every month and reduced entrance fees when you come to our meetings.

We do have one distinct advantage over other apas -- we have no waiting list. So there's no hanging around while someone decides to leave. If you're new to fanzines, and perhaps to fandom in general, there's no better way to get some experience at putting together something and in handling other people's comments. And since you need only do two pages every other month (and please make 15 copies) it won't really hurt that much. If you do decide to do more we'll be very pleased to read your work. Who knows, you could end up being a potential Nova award winner!

EUNICE PEARSON

CONVENTION

MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 ROB HOLDSTOCK | 50 James Steel |
| 2 STEVE GREEN | 51 Kathy Westhead |
| 3 MARTIN TUDOR | 52 Mike Westhead |
| 4 ANN GREEN | 53 Peter Tyers |
| 5 EUNICE PEARSON | 54 Chris Davenport |
| 6 PAUL VINCENT | 55 Peter Wareham |
| 7 DAVE HADEN | 56 Animal |
| 8 KEVIN CLARKE | 57 Brian Ameringen |
| 9 PHILL PROBERT | 58 Duncan Booth |
| 10 Vinç Clarke | 59 Paul Stewart |
| 11 Joy Hibbert | 60 Pam Wells |
| 12 Dave Rowley | 61 Roy Macinski |
| 13 Allan Boyd-Newton | 62 Dave Ellis |
| 14 Charles Mawdsley | 63 Eric Bentcliffe |
| 15 John Styles | 64 Katie Davies |
| 16 Margaret Austin | 65 Joyce Slater |
| 17 Martin Easterbrook | 66 Ken Slater |
| 18 Steve Davies | 67 Christine Ward |
| 19 Bob Shaw (Glasgow) | 68 Edward Ward |
| 20 T. M. Henir | 69 Jack Cohen |
| 21 Chris Southern | 70 Martin Smith |
| 22 Jenny Southern | 71 Urban Gunnarsson |
| 23 S. Booth | 72 Marion van der Voort |
| 24 J. Sheward | 73 Richard van der Voort |
| 25 K. H. Allan | 74 Rory McLean |
| 26 George Ternet | 75 Roger Peyton |
| 27 Linda Bagler | 76 Bruce MacDonald |
| 28 Helen Eling | 77 Mike Damesick |
| 29 Stan Eling | 78 Mike Walshe |
| 30 Mickey Poland | 79 John Wilkes |
| 31 Dai Price | 80 Ye Gerbish |
| 32 Roger Robinson | 81 John Paul Smit |
| 33 Jonathon Cowie | 82 Larry van der Putte |
| 34 Tim Illingworth | 83 Harry Bell |
| 35 Katie Hoare | 84 Rob Hansen |
| 36 Martin Hoare | 85 Ken Worrall |
| 37 Roger Perkins | 86 Peter Worrall |
| 38 Owen Whiteoak | 87 Su Worrall |
| 39 Alex Stewart | 88 Greg Pickersgill |
| 40 Dave Symes | 89 Linda Pickersgill |
| 41 Fay Symes | 90 Howard Rosenblum |
| 42 Andrew Hall | 91 June Rosenblum |
| 43 Martin Stallard | 92 Gwen Funnell |
| 44 Tony Rogers | 93 James White |
| 45 Bernie Evans | 94 Peggy White |
| 46 Maureen Porter | 95 Paul Dormer |
| 47 Colin Fine | 96 John Steward |
| 48 Marcus Rowland | 97 Pete Weston |
| 49 Caroline Mullan | 98 Kev Williams |

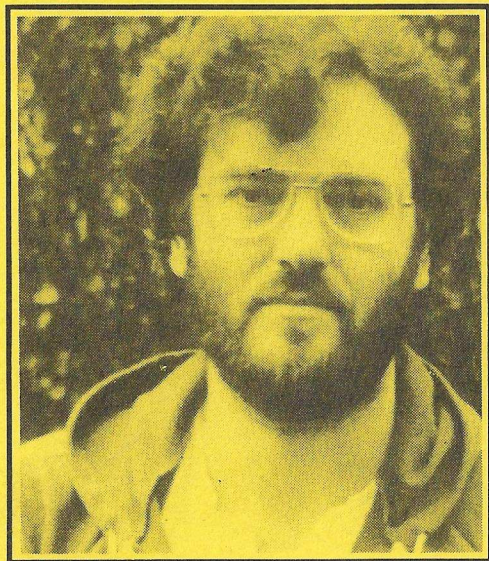
99	Sue Williams	159	Pete Wright
100	Phil Barnard	160	Robert Sneddon
101	Alan Dorey	161	Mike Ford
102	Rochelle Dorey	162	Chris Mayers
103	Andrew Stephenson	163	Dave Thomas
104	Lesley Ward	164	Wendy Glover
105	Tony Berry	165	Henry John Landis
106	Dave Wood	166	Sylvia Starshine
107	Simon Rudyk	167	Chris Donaldson
108	Barbara Rudyk	168	Paul Oldroyd
109	Mark Brantingham	169	Neil Hepple
110	John Jarrold	170	Sue Hepple
111	Terry Jeeves	171	Eleanor Alexander
112	D. M. Sherwood	172	John Lang
113	Chris Bursey	173	Mike Molloy
114	Paul Kincaid	174	Mike Gould
115	Darroll Pardoe	175	Nigel Robson
116	Rosemary Pardoe	176	Ian Sorensen
117	Carol Jackson	177	Tibs
118	Rob Jackson	178	Dave Caton
119	Alun Harries	179	Patrick Curzon
120	Susan Francis	180	Neil Robinson
121	John Brunner	181	Christina Lake
122	William McCabe	182	Peter-Fred Thompson
123	Trevor Mall	183	Judy Booth
124	Saul Bura	184	Graham Stulie
125	John Dallman	185	Dave French
126	Peter Mabey	186	Shirley French
127	John Stewart	187	Steve Devaney
128	Adrian Snowdon	188	Fiona Anderson
129	A.W.A. Watkins	189	Lawrence Lambourne
130	David Bell	190	Michael Bernardi
131	Sue Thomason	191	Niall Gordon
132	Kev Dixon	192	Tim Broadribb
133	Mike Scantlebury	193	Katherine Wright
134	Bob Day	194	Ken Bulmer
135	Debby Moir	195	Alex Armsrtong
136	Mike Moir	196	Frances-Jane Nelson
137	David Breen	197	Margaret Hall
138	Julian Headlong	198	Chuck Conner
139	Colin Langeveld	199	Hazel Ashworth
140	Mr Cruttenden	200	Mal Ashworth
141	Wendy Cruttenden	201	David H. Walters
142	Steve Mowbray	202	Ros Calverley
143	Marsha Elkin Jones	203	Barry Alan Denning
144	Jeremy Johnson	204	Liz Burak
145	Chris Cheyne	205	Nick Mills
146	Susie Cheyne	206	Ian Williams
147	Vicky Cheyne	207	Simon Bailey
148	Peter Day	208	Anne Warren
149	Tom Taylor	209	Jimmy Robertson
150	Lawrence Dean	210	Sue Harrison
151	Pete Gilligan	211	Rachel Dickinson
152	Laura Wheatly	212	Aian Wilson
153	Steve Lawson	213	Clive Warren
154	Vincent Docherty	214	Jeanette Warren
155	Oscar Dalglish	215	Simon Ounsley
156	Bruce Saville	216	Robert Meades
157	Pete Randall	217	Helen Conner
158	Val Dixon	218	Michael Day

219	Peter Smith	275	Phil Rogers
220	Mike Tebby	276	Doreen Rogers
221	Shelley Hollingsworth	277	Susan Sharp
222	Moiria Shearman	278	Anne Cumberlin
223	Edmund Jackson	279	Colin Smith
224	Alexander Clarke	280	Lee Montgomerie
225	Abi Frost	281	Tim Smith
226	Philip Dawson	282	S. S. Khera
227	Chris Jennings	283	Neil Thompson
228	David Wake	284	Simon J. Bennett
229	Brian Aldiss	285	Cardinal P. D. Cox
230	Harry Harrison	286	Simon Green
231	Nigel Pearson	287	Mike White
232	Alison Cook	288	Boz
233	Bruce MacDonald	289	Phil Collins
234	Nigel E. Richardson	290	Bob Shaw
235	Malcolm Davies	291	Sarah Shaw
236	Joe Gibbons	292	Hazel Langford
237	Ian McKeer	293	D West
238	Richard Harris	294	Elizabeth Sourbut
239	Trevor Mendham	295	Jean Maudsley
240	Joyce Cluett	296	John Brosnan
241	David Cluett	297	Eta De Cicco
241½	Adam Cluett	298	Pauline Morgan
241½	Tricia Cluett	299	Chris Morgan
241½	Daniel Cluett	300	Jon Wilkes
242	J. Perry	301	Geoffrey Pitchford
243	Simon Beresford	302	Steve Higgins
244	Peter Colley	303	Kim Whysall
245	Cath Easthope	304	Tony Hammond
246	Ann-Droid	305	Tom Shippey
247	Larry Dart	306	Louise Savage
248	Mike Horsfield	307	Mark Greener
249	Mary Horsfield	308	Rosemary Tracey
250	Lil	309	Anne Wilson
251	Bacchus	310	Andy Challis
252	Ann Looker	311	Rod Milner
253	Ian Bambro	312	Lisa Tuttle
254	Jacqueline Bexon	313	Mike Meara
255	Paul Schofield	314	Pat Meara
256	Robin Levy	315	David Dunn
257	Rowena Levy	316	Nigel Dresser
258	Alan Eales	317	Mark Fletcher
259	Val Wood	318	Tim Breslain
260	Stuart Hall	319	Tom Harris
261	M. Hall	320	Lisanne Norman
262	Gary Sharman	321	Stu Andrews
263	Richard Osbourne	322	Justin Rogers
26	Brian Haunton	323	Alec Lewis
265	John McKeown	324	G. L. Lewis
266	Ian McKeown	325	Eileen Weston
267	Lilian Edwards	326	Graham Poole
268	Mark Caldwell	327	Jan Poole
269	Steve Prosser	328	Anne Page
270	Joan S. Patterson	329	Dave Holmes
271	Dave Langford	330	Helen Holmes
272	Ian Warner	331	Sue Atkin
273	John Ledson	332	Lynn Edwards
274	Mark Hansen	333	Tim Stannard

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