

NOVACON *Eighteen*



Progress Report 1

Chairman's Bit

Welcome to Novacon 18 PR1. 18 eh? This means that Novacon is now considered to be a responsible adult - old enough to vote, get married and hold a full driving licence. Hmmm. Maybe the Age of Consent should be raised to 43.

Last year when the con returned to the Angus, I was one of the people who doubted whether it would work because of the size of the function space available. Well, I was wrong (as usual) because Bernie did a great job and the hotel coped admirably with it all. It's amazing what doubling the bar area will do. So, we're back there again, and have even raised the membership limit to 400.

The committee needs little introduction: all stalwarts of the convention and fannish scene having centuries of propping up bars between them. At CONSPIRACY, the World SF Convention in Brighton last August, Linda was in overall charge of Things Fannish, Greg ran the Fanroom and Martin the Fan Programme, with me as his deputy. I was also Chairman of Novacon 16. Rog has been Chairman of four Novacons and of the BSFG, Bernie was of course Chairman of last year's Novacon and is this year's Chairman of the BSFG! With all this experience and Garry Kilworth as Guest of Honour, we should put on a good show.

This year we have decided to issue only two Progress Reports: the first containing all the essential information and the second (due at the beginning of October) the rail travel form and such. So please hang on to this one! Deadline for PR2 will be the end of August.

The convention itself will start on the Friday evening with the Opening Ceremony at 8pm, and end with the Closing Ceremony on Sunday evening, although this will be followed by even more entertainment for those of you sensibly staying over. There will be no fan room and one programme stream, so arranged as to leave plenty of time for drinks, food etc.

Finally, a word about behaviour at Novacon. Most of you know the routine, but for those of you who have not been to a convention before, we do expect you to act sensibly over the weekend. Please remember that the hotel is in the business of selling beds, food and drink. If you bring your own and the management see it they may be, understandably, upset and start charging you accordingly. In such an event the committee will not stand by you.

Tony Berry

NOVACON 18

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th November 1988

Guest of Honour: Garry Kilworth

Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Martin Tudor, Bernie Evans, Greg & Linda Pickersgill, Rog Peyton

Membership: £10.00 per person (£15.00 on the door). Send to Bernie Evans at the address below.

The Hotel

The Royal Angus Hotel, Queensway, Birmingham, B4. Tel. 021-236-4211.

Room Rates: £17.50 per person double/twin, £22.00 single. Rates include full English breakfast and VAT.

Overflow will be the Grand Hotel.

The HOTEL AND CONVENTION BOOKING FORMS are included with this PR. Please send to Bernie Evans, NOT the hotel.

Bookroom and Artshow

This year we hope to move the Bookroom back into the Ariel Suite, which should give everyone a bit more space. Rog Peyton will be in charge. Rate for dealers (who must be members of the convention) is £10 per 6ft table for the weekend.

There will be a Book Auction during the convention, so if you have any books, magazines, signed first editions of "Frankenstein" or any SF-related material you wish to get rid of, please contact us.

The Artshow will again be run by Dave Hardy, and followed by an Auction of the exhibits.

If you wish to have space in the Bookroom or Artshow, please fill in the relevant section on the convention booking form.

Creche

The creche will again be on the 6th floor and run as last year by Vicky Evans. The Angus also has a baby listening service if required.

Advertising

Advertising rates: PRs: £24 per page, £12 half-page, £6 quarter-page.

Prog. Book: £32 per page, £16 half-page, £8 quarter-page.

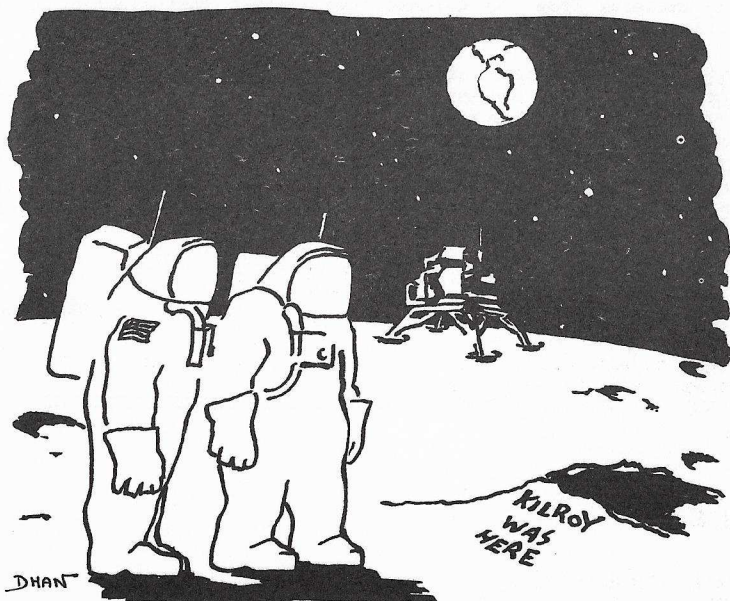
Send copy (camera-ready) to Rog Peyton, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL.

Deadline for PR2 is the end of August, for the Programme Book it is Oct 1st, but you must reserve the space required by Sep 1st.

For all convention enquiries contact:

Bernie Evans, 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green,
Birmingham, B27 7UY.

Tel. (evenings) 021-707-6606.



Garry Kilworth

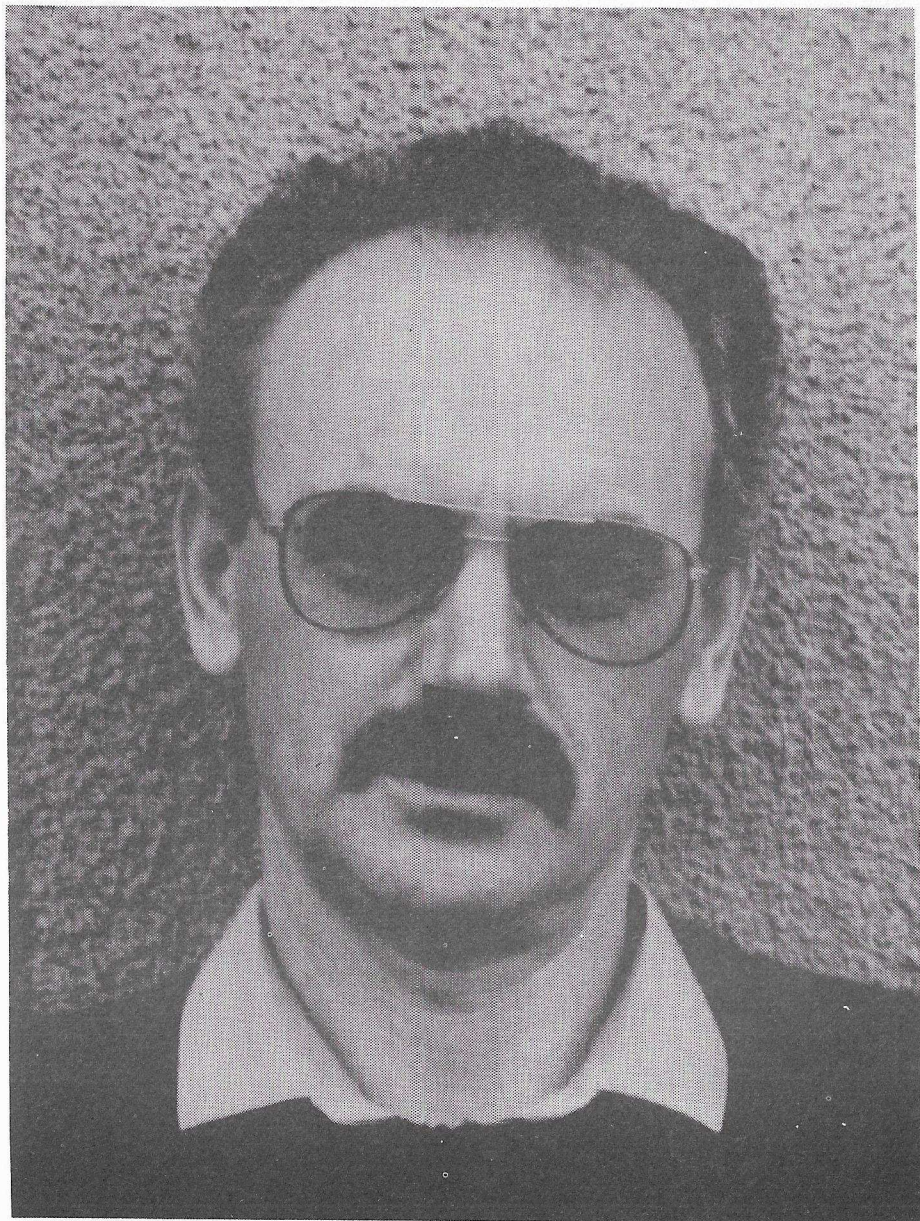
One afternoon during a visit to Garry Kilworth's house, I remember Rob Holdstock and I walking with him across an Essex field. We were all talking animatedly about something or other when Garry gradually fell silent. A distant yet intense look appeared in his eyes. Rob and I turned to one another, scowling, both recognising the phenomenon. We muttered words to the effect that "The bugger's writing another story, isn't he?"

Tell Garry that you're editing a new anthology, and he has a story in the post before you've even finished your sentence. He's a very productive writer, which makes me feel positively jealous. Rob and I have just bought a new Kilworth story for Other Edens 2, and it's one of his best, which is saying a lot. Since he won the 1975 Gollancz/Sunday Times SF short story competition with "Let's Go To Golgotha", Garry has produced an enviable variety of high-quality fiction. Those of us who know his work can pick our favourite stories and novels, but I would point uninitiated readers to the first Other Edens anthology for a recent example of his range. "Triptych" comprises three stories which share a common concern - in this case death, a very Kilworthian preoccupation - but which are otherwise utterly different in style, content, mood, you name it. They also have an admirable concision which is increasingly rare in these days of dekalogies and 500-page blockbusters which would have been better at half the length.

Another benefit of reading Garry's work is that you travel vicariously all over the world. His stories often take the reader to remote or exotic corners of the Earth, where some strangeness lurks, ready to entrap his unsuspecting protagonists. Entrapment is a central theme, his characters frequently escaping from one dilemma into another that's worse. In the world of the global village, you still can't hide from yourself.

Garry remains undervalued in the SF field, and I think this is largely because he's a modest and unassuming bloke. Lesser writers who have a flair for self-promotion are better known, but over the years Garry has continued to build up an increasingly impressive body of work which is gradually finding more and more appreciative readers. If you haven't read his stuff, give yourself a treat and pick up a copy of Witchwater Country or Spiral Winds or The Songbirds of Pain. And there's plenty more where they came from.

- CHRIS EVANS



The Nova Awards

The NOVA is an award for fanzines produced by *Science Fiction Fandom* in the British Isles. Created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field and presented annually at Novacon, the NOVA was, until 1981, awarded to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best of the Year'. Since then there have been two additional NOVA's awarded each year to the fanwriter and fanartist voted 'Best of the Year'. At Novacon 17 the winners were:

Best Fanzine - *LIP* edited by HAZEL ASHWORTH.
Best Fanwriter - D. WEST.
Best Fanartist - D. WEST.

For a fanzine to qualify at Novacon 18 *ONE* or more issues must have appeared between October 1st 1987 and September 30th 1988. For fanwriters and fanartists to qualify, a piece of writing or artwork by the person concerned must have been published in a fanzine for the first time between October 1st 1987 and September 30th 1988. For the purposes of this award a 'fanzine' is defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with Science Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction and Fantasy fans and/or related subjects, and copies of which may be generally obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment.

The fundamental idea of the NOVA awards is that they should be awarded by informed vote. Informed votes come from informed voters, which for the purposes of the awards are defined as any member of Novacon 18, provided he or she has been active in fanzines in the British Isles during the year terminating on September 30th 1988. 'Active in fanzines' is a bit harder to define, but the NOVA committee has decided that 'to be active in fanzines' means to have received SIX or more fanzines during the course of the relevant year. *Fanzines* in this instance means *different publications*, and *NOT* different issues of the same fanzine. The various official organs of a group or society will not be treated as different fanzines for the purposes of this rule.

MARTIN TUDOR

NOVA AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR.

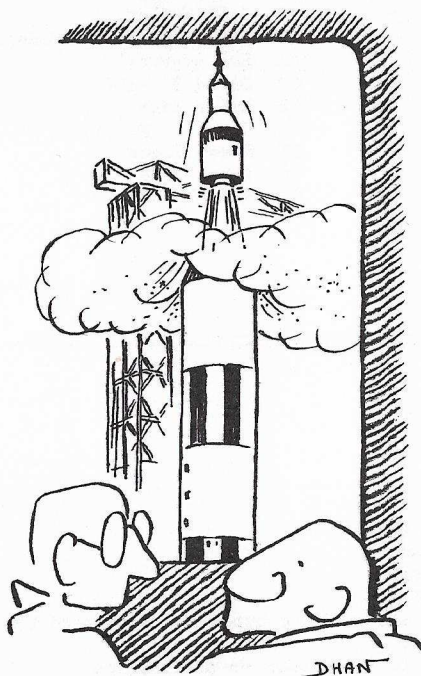
RNIB Raffle

At Novacon 17 the Raffle and infamous Guess How Many Cornflakes There Are In A Packet Competition raised a total of £239.25. This, added to the proceeds held over from Novacon 16, will enable the BSFG to pay for the recording of two books for the Royal National Institute For The Blind's Talking Book service. It was decided that one book from each of the Society's two honorary presidents, Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison, should be chosen. Titles to be announced.

NOVACON
is run annually by the
BIRMINGHAM
SF GROUP

Honorary Presidents:

Brian Aldiss & Harry Harrison



TALKS
AUTHORS' SIGNING SESSIONS
NEWSLETTER
SPECIAL EVENTS

MEETINGS 3RD FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH AT THE
LADBROKE INTERNATIONAL
HOTEL, NEWSTREET

FOR DETAILS CONTACT
BERNIE EVANS ON
021-707-6606

"...I STILL say they're taking
those economy cuts too far..."

Members

1	Garry Kilworth	30	Paul Dormer
2	Annette Kilworth	31	Brian Ameringen
3	Tony Berry	32	Larry Van Der Putte
4	Bernie Evans	33	Martin Easterbrook
5	Greg Pickersgill	34	Margaret Austin
6	Linda Pickersgill	35	Tim Illingworth
7	Martin Tudor	36	Colin P. Langeveld
8	Rog Peyton	37	Stephen Davies
9	Chris Baker	38	Charles Mawdsley
10	Dave Holmes	39	Peter Wareham
11	Kate Wright	40	Gwen Funnell
12	Tim Broadribb	41	Patrick Lawford
13	Andy Morris	42	Gareth Rees
14	John F. Dowd	43	James steel
15	Stan Eling	44	Peter Mabey
16	Helen Eling	45	Mike Gould
17	Ann Looker	46	Nigel Robson
18	Roger Robinson	47	Rob Meades
19	Mike Westhead	48	Susan Francis
20	Kathy Westhead	49	Gill Taylor
21	Howard Rosenblum	50	Christopher F. O'Shea II
22	June Rosenblum	51	Rob Howweryl
23	Marcus L. Rowland	52	David B. Wake
24	Patrick Curzon	53	Helen Wake
25	Owen Whiteoak	54	Caroline Mullan
26	Dave Ellis	55	Steve Jones
27	Julian Headlong	56	Iain Banks
28	WR Cruttenden	57	Ann Blackburn
29	Wendy Cruttenden		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Article on Garry Kilworth by Chris Evans

Article on Nova Awards by Martin Tudor

Cover and Novacon 18 logo by Fangorn

Cartoons on pages 5 and 9 by "DHAN"

The remainder was written and the whole thing typed and assembled by Tony Berry and his trusty Amstrad PCW8256

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SIGNING SESSIONS

DAVID GEMMELL

Saturday March 5th

A signing for his new novel **GHOST KING** (Century hardcover £12.15; Paperback £7.75)

STORM CONSTANTINE

Saturday March 12th

A signing for the paperback of **THE ENCHANTMENTS OF FLESH AND SPIRIT** (Futura £4.55) and the new sequel in hardcover, **THE BEWITCHMENTS OF LOVE AND HATE** (Macdonald £13.15)

BOB SHAW

Saturday March 19th

A signing for **THE WOODEN SPACESHIPS** (Gollancz £12.15), the new sequel to the Award-winning **THE RAGGED ASTRONAUTS**

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OTHER EDENS edited by Chris Evans & Rob Holdstock (Unwin) Contains three Kilworth stories. £3.35

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