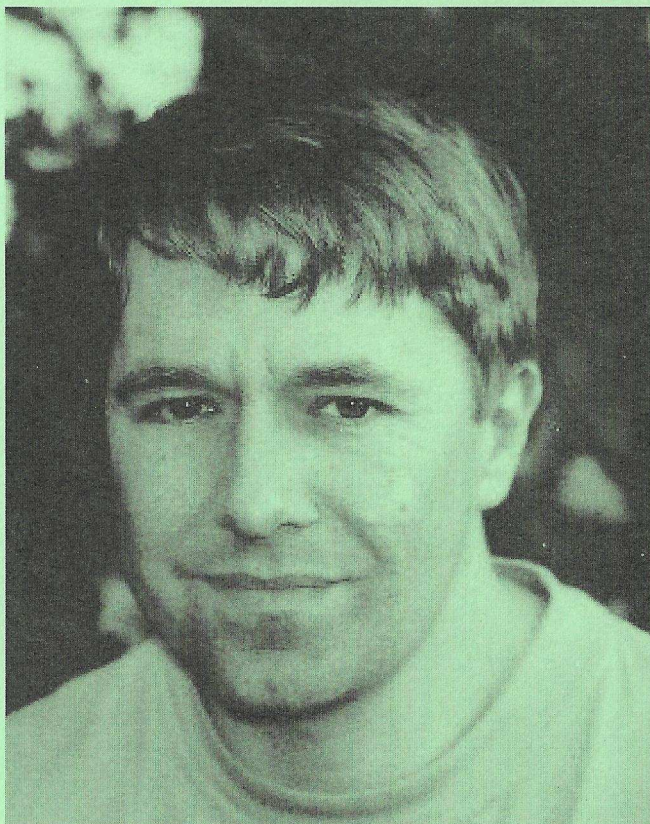


ALASTAIR REYNOLDS



Guest of Honour

NOVACON 35

Progress Report Three
11th - 13th November 2005

Committee Contact Details

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NP20 4GQ
David.hicks70@ntlworld.com

NOVACON 35... *the stuff you need to know...*

Memberships

Attending Memberships: £36.00 until close of postal registration
Postal registration closes on *October 30th 2005*

Full attending membership entitles you to all convention publications plus a carefully handcrafted souvenir badge with your name and con. number on it. (*Gosh...*)

Day memberships: Friday: £10.00

Saturday: £20.00

Sunday: £15.00

Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to "Novacon 35" and sent, with completed registration documents to:

Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Rd, Sheffield S2 3HQ

E-mail enquiries to x15@zoom.co.uk

tel.no 0114 281 1572

CONTENTS:

P 2: Committee contacts

P 6: Programme

P 8: Roadmap

P 9: How to get there

P12: Hotel and Con information

P14: The Novas

P18: Membership list

CHAIRMAN'S BIT. TONY BERRY.

Welcome to Novacon 35 PR3. This is mostly the "How to get there and what to expect when you do" PR. There's a piece from Yvonne about the Programme, but I can say that all the old favourites are there: the book auction, art show and auction, fan auction, party, food and beer on Sunday - you know.

We need **GOPHERS**, without whose help things won't function properly, so volunteer when you get there and receive rewards for your efforts. Remember there will not be a formal **CRECHE** this year, but the room will still be available with some useful stuff in it if parents want to make their own arrangements. We need **BOOKS** for the book auction; otherwise it could be pretty sparse with just my castouts.

SUNDAY EVENING BEER AND FOOD. As a wind-down to the con we will be hosting the famous International Beer Tasting. To gain access to this you need to contribute at least **THREE** bottles of British or foreign beer (the weirder the better) which you can check in to Registration when you arrive. In return you will receive a Beer Badge which entitles you to drink the beer at the event, or you can just buy a badge for £5.00. There will also be a barrel of beer and soft drinks available (Soft drinks are **FREE** to all). To accompany the beer tasting, we usually serve food chosen by our Guest of Honour. Alastair Reynolds has lived in the Netherlands for a number of years and so we reckoned that an Indonesian Rice Table would fit the bill. Never heard of it? Never had one? Now's your chance! To get your hands on the food you **MUST** buy a ticket from Registration. Obviously this is a special event by arrangement with the hotel, and it does not mean you can bring your own food or drink into the convention.

SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE. Well, no actually. But we are looking for photos from conventions past to show on the hotel's new plasma screen in the Dealers' Room as part of the 75th anniversary of British Fandom. If you have photos, especially from old Novacons, *and can transfer them to disk*, we would really appreciate it! Send your CDs to Steve Lawson for him to play with. I won't ask you to send your treasured photos in case they go astray, but you can always talk to Steve direct.

Remember you can get more information and download hotel booking forms etc from the Website.

The website address is <http://www.novacon.org>

The Nova Awards

Since 1973, the Nova Awards have celebrated the best in British fanzines.

If you're reading this at Novacon 35, please pick up a ballot form, check the rules on eligibility (you need to have seen six different UK / Irish fanzines this year) and Vote before Sunday!

Programme by Yvonne Rowse

Another year and another Novacon with a mix of the traditional and the new. On Friday night we have the spectacle of Tony Berry seeing how quickly he can get through the opening ceremony and back to the cosy familiarity of his natural habitat: the bar. Steve Green will continue the theme of tradition by quizzing Alastair Reynolds on what or whom he'd like to consign Room 101 and finally there is the welcome return of the Dave Hicks Quiz.

Throughout the weekend there are three auctions, the Art Auction, the Book Auction (if anyone is cruel enough to be casting their less favoured books into limbo - come and adopt an unloved book), and the fanfund auction where great treasures can be had for a little money and the satisfaction of contributing to send one of our own to represent us to overseas fandom.

Looking at the wider world, in the last year there have been disasters, both natural and manmade. As a group we are used to speculating about catastrophes - no longer cosy when we see them in real life - at Novacon we'll look at what's happened and what can be done.

Nearer to home, this is the last fannish convention before Eastercon. We ask what happens if there is no bid

for 2007 and if we really care and maybe consider why people are reluctant to run Eastercons.

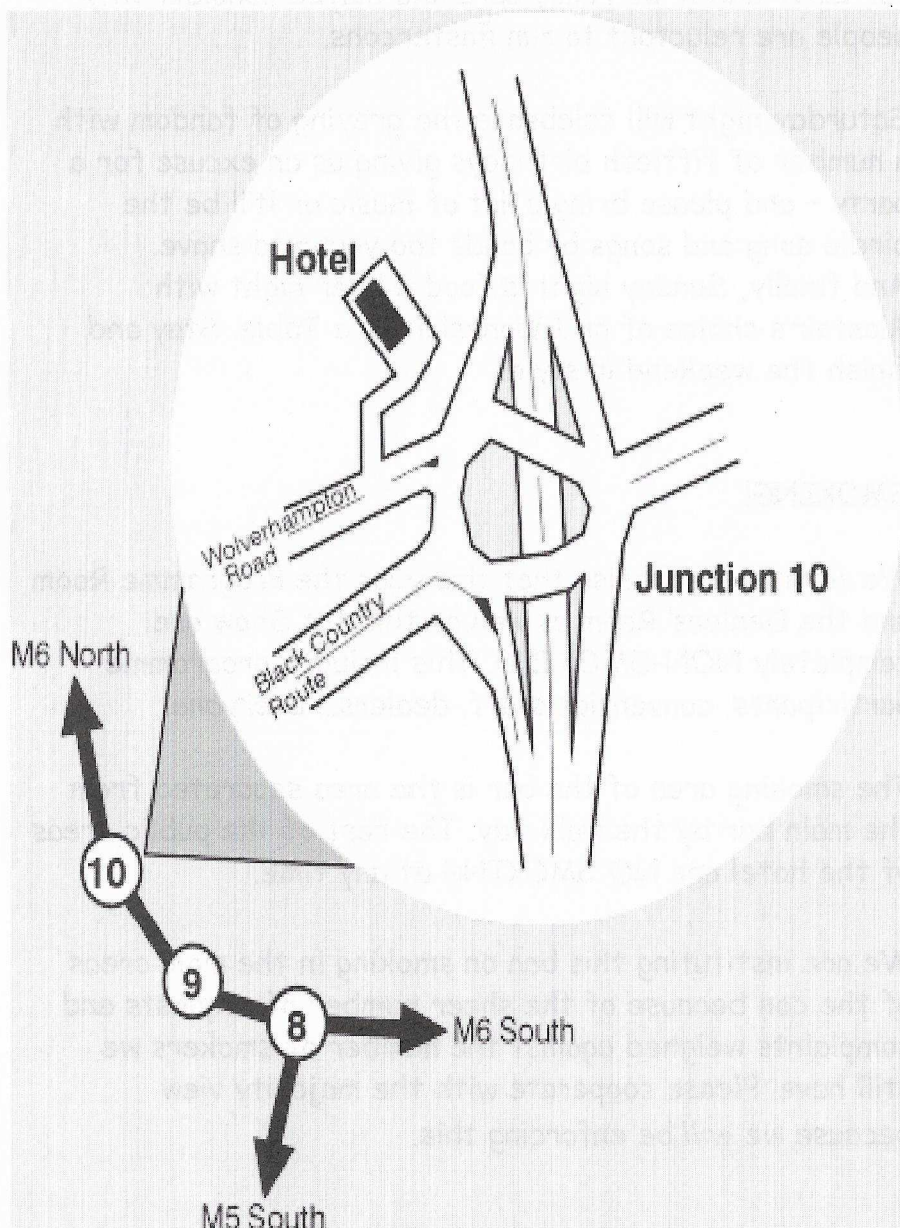
Saturday night will celebrate the greying of fandom with a number of fiftieth birthdays giving us an excuse for a party - and please bring a list of music or it'll be the birdie song and songs by bands too young to shave. And finally, Sunday night is food a beer night with Alastair's choice of an Indonesian Rice Table. Stay and finish the weekend in style.

SMOKING!

We want to emphasise that this year the Programme Room and the Dealers' Room as well as the Art Show are completely NON-SMOKING. This includes programme participants, convention staff, dealers... *everyone*.

The smoking area of the bar is the area separated from the main bar by the walk way. The rest of the public areas of the hotel are NO SMOKING at any time.

We are instituting this ban on smoking in the main areas of the con because of the sheer number of requests and complaints weighed against the number of smokers we still have. Please cooperate with the majority view because we *will* be enforcing this.



How to Get There:

By Car

The hotel is right next to J10 of the M6 but is not visible from the motorway.

From the North exit at J10 and turn right heading for Wolverhampton but DO NOT enter the left hand lane.

(This will take you down the Black Country Route which you don't want and it is a long way to the next roundabout!)

Stay in the right-hand lane to the traffic lights and take the second exit signposted "Buses and Hotel" and then immediately the first right into what looks like a small service road. Follow this and you will come to the hotel.

Go in through the car park barrier. When you leave remember to pick up an exit token from reception.

From the South, come off at J10 and keep to the *right-hand* lane . Stay in lane as you go up the slip-road to the lights. Then follow directions as above.

By Public Transport

The fares on all local buses are £1.10. Exact change is required on the buses listed. Taxi fares are approximate.

By Train via Wolverhampton

The nearest intercity station to the hotel is

Wolverhampton. Exit Wolverhampton station on to Railway Drive where you can pick up a taxi to the Quality Hotel (at J10 of the M6 in Bentley). Expect to pay about £7.00 for a journey of about 10 minutes. If no taxis are available try Associated Taxis on (01902) 425591.

There is also the 529 bus to the hotel. Most of the vehicles on this route are wheelchair/buggy friendly with "kneeling suspension". They run every six minutes during the day and every twenty minutes in the evening. Walk past the taxi rank down Railway Drive to the clock and turn left past the bus station. Cross at the first crossing and continue through the rows of shelters until you find stand F on the right. The 529 takes about twenty minutes depending on traffic. Get off after the Lane Arms pub and walk past some houses towards the motorway junction bearing left down the Wolverhampton Road West access road to the hotel.

By Local Train via Walsall

Exit the station following signs to the taxi rank on Station Street. The five minute journey should cost about £6.00.

Alternatively walk down Station Street past the side of Marks and Spencers to Park Street and cut through Butler's Passage (the alleyway near Littlewoods) to St. Paul's Bus Station and catch the 529 from stand M. (See above for details).

By Bus from Birmingham

Catch the 51 from Carrs Lane (facing the side of Marks and Spencers) in Birmingham to St Paul's Bus Station in Walsall. The 51 runs every seven minutes during the day and every twenty minutes in the evening. The journey lasts approximately forty minutes. Disembark at stand G and cross the bus station to stand M where you will catch the 529. Follow earlier details.

By Bus from Sutton Coldfield

Catch the 366 from Lower Parades. The journey will take about 35-40 minutes. Disembark at Walsall (stand G) and cross the bus station to stand M where you catch the 529. Follow earlier details.

From the Airport

Birmingham New Street Station is only ten minutes away by train from Birmingham International. A shuttle bus called Air Rail Link connects the Airport directly to Birmingham International Station. This runs approximately every ten minutes from outside Terminal 1 (Main Terminal) and International Station. It is a two minute journey and free of charge. From New Street you can pick up trains to either Walsall or Wolverhampton and follow instructions from there. The 966 service from Bus Stop H links Walsall. Follow earlier instructions for "By Coach..."

I have endeavoured to get as up-to-date information as possible. If there are any problems or changes I am unaware of, please let me know at the Convention.

MONEY!

Please ensure you bring enough "walking around" cash with you as the nearest local cash point (a fifteen minute walk to the local Spar) charges a fee.).

THE HOTEL NO LONGER POSSESSES A CASH MACHINE.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The venue is the **Quality Hotel, Walsall**, which is situated next to **junction 10** of the **M6**. The nearest railway station is Walsall and the nearest Intercity Station is Wolverhampton

The Quality has 150 twin/double rooms and no singles. However a number of the rooms will be released to us as singles. These are **limited** so if you particularly want a **single** please **book early** as they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. All room rates are inclusive of Full English Breakfast (assuming the cooperation of British Gas!)

ROOM RATES

SINGLE: £47.00 pppn

TWIN/DOUBLE: £35.00 pppn

There are a limited number of suites which are suitable as family rooms, again, **first come first served**. Children aged 5-12 will be charged at £10.00 per night including breakfast. Under fives go free.

All residents will be entitled to full use of the Hotel's Leisure Club facilities including swimming pool, spa-bath, sauna, gymnasium, and solarium (- fit fans with a tan? The mind boggles).

OVERFLOW HOTEL - if you are desperate for a single, and miss out, or just short of cash there is the **Travel Inn** which is 10 mins walk away. Rooms are currently £47.95 regardless of number of people sharing and many rooms will accommodate 2 adults and 2 children. Breakfast, however is **not** included.

It is up to you to book here:

Travel Inn/ Bentley Green/ Bentley Road North/ Walsall/ WS2 OWB
08701-977-256

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Art Show

The Art show will be run, once more, by the inimitable Ann Green. If you are planning to exhibit please contact her at:

33 Scott Rd

Olton

Solihull

WM B92 7LQ

(neergnna@yahoo.co.uk)

The CDRom Art show will also be running. If you wish to exhibit in this format your work should be sent to **Steve Lawson** (address and e-mail on p2 under "Committee").

DEALERS' ROOM

This year the Dealers' Room is being run by Vicky Cook. Cost for a table for the weekend at 6ft x 2ft 6ins is £20.00. You must be a convention member to hire a table.

AUCTIONS

Novacon runs two auctions each year: the Art auction which sells the paintings/prints etc that you've been admiring in the art show all weekend but don't forget the **BOOK AUCTION!** Got books you no longer want/can't keep due to lack of shelf/floor/stair room? Bring them along and we'll auction them for you! Convention takes a 10% cut in both cases.

RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the RNIB's "Talking Books for the Blind" project. Winning numbers will be posted by Registrations after the awards ceremony.

Steve Green, Nova Awards Update Administrator

In 1973, Novacon instituted the annual Nova Awards to celebrate achievement in British science fiction fanzines. Originally handed down by a panel of judges, these accolades are now decided by Novacon members who can demonstrate a basic knowledge of current fanzines.

Following Novacon 32, the three categories - best fanzine, best fanzine writer, best fanzine artist - were extended to cover fanzines produced in Eire. In addition, electronic fanzines are now eligible, provided a file copy is lodged at the address below.

The following fanzines were received by the Nova Awards administrator between 1 October 2004 and 30 September 2005, and are eligible for the 2005 awards:

- Album #3 [CD], John Dallman, 92 Lichfield Road, Cambridge, CB1 3TR

Ansible #207 [10/04], #208 [11/04], #209 [12/04], #210 [1/05], #211 [2/05], #212 [3/05], #213 [4/05], #214 [5/05], #215 [6/05], #216 [7/05], #217 [8/05], #218 [9/05; all A4, all 2pp], Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AU, downloadable from <http://www.ansible.co.uk>

- The Banksonian #4, #5, #6 [all A5, 12pp], David Haddock, 84 Foxhollow, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8ES, <banksoniain@yahoo.co.uk>
- Banana Wings #20 [36pp], #21 [28pp], #22 [32pp], #23 [36pp all A4], Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES, <banana@fishlifter.demon.co.uk>
- Brum Group News #398 [11/04, 8pp], #399 [12/04, 4pp], #400 [1/05, 8pp], #401 [2/05, 6pp, guest-edited by Vernon Brown], #402, [3/05, 12pp], #403 [4/05, 12pp] #404 [5/05, 8pp], #405 [6/05, 12pp], #406 [7/05, 8pp] #407 [8/05, 12pp], #408 [9/05, 8pp; all A5], Rog Peyton for the Birmingham SF Group, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL, <rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.net> or <bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk>

- *The Convertible Bus #14, #15* [both A4, 2pp], Tony Keen, 48 Priory Street, Tonbridge, TN9 2AN, <keentony@yahoo.co.uk>
- *The Cosmic Hairdryer #3* [A4 landscape, 14pp], Max, 20 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 9QW <m@hawkida.com> (apologies to Max for missing her out in PR#2)
- *DiverseBooks - Nov 2004* [A4, 2pp], Alex McLintock, 88 Poppleton Road, Leytonstone, E11 1LT, <info@diversebooks.com>
- *Final to Land #1* [A4, 18pp], Antony J "Dop" Shepherd, <dop@btinternet.com>; downloadable from <www.efanzines.com>
- *Gimmickry #1* [A4, 2pp], Max, address as above
- *Grunt Grunt #1* [A4, 26pp], Captain Buggernuts (Clarrie O'Callaghan), Basement Flat, 4 Elliston Road, Bristol, BS6 6QE <punchable.nun@tesco.net>
- *Halo of Flies #4* [A5, 24pp], Tony Keen, address as above
- *The League of Fan Funds Newsletter #2* [2pp, A4], Bridget Bradshaw for the League of Fan Funds
- *Meta #1, #2* [both A5, 36pp], Geneva Melzack, 5 Brooklands Avenue, Withington, M20 1JE, <geneva.melzack@gmx.net>
- *More Balls #1, #2* [both A4, 2pp], #3 [aka *Even More Balls*, A4, 12pp] Ang Rosin, 26 Hermitage Grove, Bootle, L20 6DR, downloadable from <http://www.liv.ac.uk/~lister/balls/>
- *Old Rat's Almanack #3* [A4, 12pp], Peter Redfarn, 14 Box Tree House, Gosterwood Street, London, SE8 5PA, <peter.redfarn@virgin.net>
- *On the Town with the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* [playtext; A5, 27pp], Tony Keen, address as above
- *Owl Soup #1* [A4, 34pp], Captain Buggernuts, as above
- *Plokta #32* [16pp], #33_ [12pp, both A4], Steve Davies, Alison Scott & Mike Scott, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, RG30 2RP, <www.plokta.com>
- *Shiny!Shiny!* [A6, 20pp plus plastic jacket], Flick, 13 Collette Court, Eleanor Close, London, SE16 6PW, <shiny@internet-fairy.org> (all 30 copies of Shiny! (reportedly A6, 16pp) were distributed at Paragon 2; pdf versions should be available shortly)

- *Snapshot #5* [6pp], *#6* [8pp; both A4], Ian Sorensen, 3 Portia Place, Motherwell, ML1 1EL <ian@soren.demon.co.uk> [note new address]
- *The Unnamable #2* [A5, 12pp], Feòrag NicBhrìde, 89 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh, EH7 5HS
- *This Way Up #12* [A5, 40pp], John Connors <john.connors@lineone.net>
- *Thought Experiments #2* [A5, 18pp], Geneva Melzack, address as above
- *Tortoise #20* [A4 landscape, 23pp], *#20a: A Tortoise Sampler* [A4 landscape, 14pp], *#21* [A4, 19pp], Sue Jones, Flat 5, 32-33 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ, <sue.tortoise@btinternet.com>
- *YAF Staffer and the Worldcon of 2005* [A4, 38pp], Max, address above
- *YAFazine* [A4, 6pp], produced as part of Interaction's youth activities project, contact Max at the address above
- *Zoo Nation #6* [A5, 36pp], Pete Young, 62 Walmer Road, Woodley, RG5 4PN, <peter.a.young@macunlimited.net>

In addition, new issues of *Floss* and *Plokta* were reported at Interaction in August.

The following have been received since 1 October 2004, but are ineligible under the current rules:

- *B-APA Special #1: Happy Birthday, Andy* [A4, 36pp], Tony Keen (in memory of Andy Roberts)
- *A Bear Went Over the Mountain #1* [28pp], *#2* [33pp; both quarto], Chaz Boston Boden, Post Office Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817-7522, USA, <bear@bostonbaden.com>
- *The Best of Moz*, issues one to six [A4, 16pp], Murray Moore, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Y 1C8, Canada, <mmoore@pathcom.com>
- *Bento #17* [quarto, 36pp], David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97215, USA, <www.bentopress.com>
- *Can't Get Off the Island: A Greg Pickersgill Collection* [A4, 67pp], £4.00 from Claire Briailey and Mark Plummer, address as above

- *Chunga #9* [34pp], *#10* [32pp; both quarto], Randy Byers & Andy Hooper & Carl Jaurez, 1013 North 36th Street, Seattle, WA 98103, USA, downloadable from <www.efanzines.com>
- *Data Dump #78, #82, #84, #85* [A5, 4pp], UK£0.70 or US\$2.00, Steve Sneyd for Hilltop Press, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8PB
- *Fringe #1* [A4, 4pp - US copies may be quarto], Ulrika O'Brien, 18540 NE 58th Ct. #1092, Redmond, WA 98052, USA
- *Littlebrook#4* [quarto, 28pp], Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, 3522 NE 123rd Street, Seattle, WA 98125, USA
- *Novacon 35 Progress Report #1, #2* [both A5, 24pp], Helena Bowles for Novacon 35, <www.novacon.org>
- *Right Up There! #2* [quarto, 30pp; "the 20 year annish"], Sharee Carton, PO Box 208, Dimbulah, Queensland 4872, Australia,
- *Trapdoor #23*, Robert Lichtman, Post Office Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, USA
- *Tobes' Taff Ting (in Two Hours and Two Pints)*, £3.50 from Max, 30 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 9QW (make cheque payable to "TAFF")
- *Vanamonde #558 - #582, #598 - 602* [all quarto, 2pp], John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA
- *Wabe #7* [quarto, 16pp], Jae Leslie Adams & Bill Bodden & Tracy Benton, 621 Spruce Street, Madison, WI 53715, USA

In addition, Hilltop Press released two new chapbooks, both available from the address above or via <www.bbr-online.com/catalogue>:

- *Elsewhere Unbound: Poetry in American SFanzines, the 1930s to 1960s* by Steve Sneyd [£2.50 / US\$6.00]
- *Monday Morning Over the World* by John B Michel c/w Bitter-Sweet by Mark Sonnenfield & Gindy Elizabeth Houston [£1.99 / US\$4.00]

Material for listing in future progress reports and on the Nova Awards ballot form should be sent to: 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.

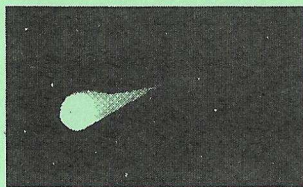
NOVACON 35 MEMBERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Alastair Reynolds | 40 Mark Plummer |
| 2 Ian Watson | 41 Anne Woodford |
| 3 Jon Courtenay Grimwood | 42 Alan Woodford |
| 4 Ian McDonald | 43 Erhard Leder |
| 5 Enid Crowe | 44 Bridget Bradshaw |
| 6 Brian Aldiss | 45 Simon Bradshaw |
| 7 Harry Harrison | 46 Laura Wheatly |
| 8 Tony Berry | 47 Brian Ameringen |
| 9 Helena Bowles | 48 Caroline Mullan |
| 10 Cat Coast | 49 Meriol Ameringen |
| 11 Vicky Cook | 50 Julian Headlong |
| 12 Alice Lawson | 51 Pat Brown |
| 13 Steve Lawson | 52 Vernon Brown |
| 14 Yvonne Rowse | 53 Michael Abbott |
| 15 Martin Tudor | 54 Anne Wilson |
| 16 Helena Tudor | 55 Eve Harvey |
| 17 Steve Green | 56 John Harvey |
| 18 Ann Green | 57 Steve Davies |
| 19 Peter Weston | 58 Giulia De Cesare |
| 20 Eileen Weston | 59 George Ternent |
| 21 Kate Solomon | 60 Linda Ternent |
| 22 Malcolm Davies | 61 Calvin Ternent |
| 23 Chris O'Shea | 62 Tim Stannard |
| 24 Ina Shorrock | 63 Sue Mason |
| 25 Gavin Shorrock | 64 Caroline Loveridge |
| 26 Pauline Morgan | 65 Gavin Long |
| 27 Chris Morgan | 66 Dave Langford |
| 28 _r | 67 Alison Scott |
| 29 Dave Hardy | 68 Steven Cain |
| 30 Vincent Docherty | 69 Jonathan Cain |
| 31 Carol Morton | 70 Marianne Cain |
| 32 Tony Morton | 71 Julia Daly |
| 33 Sue Edwards | 72 Steve Cooper |
| 34 Ian Sorensen | 73 Tony Keen |
| 35 Roger Robinson | 74 Kate Bodley |
| 36 Pete Young | 75 Lennart Uhlin |
| 37 Simon Dearn | 76 Gwen Funnell |
| 38 Paul Dormer | 77 Peter Wareham |
| 39 Claire Briailey | 78 Dave Tompkin |

79 Tony Rogers
80 Nick Mills
81 Neil Summerfield
82 Alex McLintock
83 David Thomas
84 Julie Rigby
85 Andrew A. Adams
86 Douglas Spencer
87 Niall Gordon
88 Rog Peyton
89 Adrian Snowdon
90 Sue Jones
91 Stephen Dunn
92 Jim Walker
93 Tara Dowling-Hussey
94 Gerry Webb
95 Mali Perera
96 Alan Webb
97 Kostya Milayev
98 Dave Hicks
99 Sue Hobson
100 Dave Lally
101 Al Johnston
102 Martin Hoare
103 Ray Bradbury
104 Andrew Hobson
105 Stuart Widdows
106 Neil Tomkinson
107 Alison Tomkinson
108 Rachel Tomkinson
109 Noel Collyer
110 John Merry
111 Loretta Merry
112 Jennifer Swift
113 Ian Whates
114 Sally Sinclair
115 Mark Sinclair
116 Mark Slater
117 Tobes Valois
118 Peter Mabey
119 Christopher Brooks

120 Bridget Wilkinson
121 Iain Emsley
122 Susan Emsley
123 Max
124 Colin Harris
125 James Odell
126 Lucy Zinkiewicz
127 Roderick O'Hanlon
128 David Farmer
129 Mike Scott
130 Flick
131 John Dowd
132 Fran Dowd
133 Wendy Graham
134 Ken Slater
135 Nigel Furlong
136 Sabine Furlong
137 Karen Furlong
138 Billy Stirling
139 Chris Murphy
140 Gavin Wilson
141 Judith Proctor
142 Chris Dunk
143 Chris Stocks
144 Jane-Louise Cracknell
145 Miriam Moss
146 Dave Cox
147 Krystyna Oborn

Birmingham Science Fiction Group



THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP was founded in 1971 to enable local and not so local fans to get together to discuss science fiction and related topics.

We meet on the second Friday of every month, 7:45pm at the Britannia Hotel. Just 5 Minutes from New Street Station and handy for all bus routes. We usually start the evening with a guest speaker, often a professional in the field such as Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett or Peter F. Hamilton.

If you live anywhere in or around the West Midlands, the BSFG is the Group for you. For further information, and a copy of our monthly newsletter, please:

email

bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk

Also, do visit our website at:

www.bsfg.freesevers.com