

# NOVACON 4

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

25th-26th-27th October 1974 Imperial Centre Hotel, Birmingham

## P.R.2.

Following hotly upon the heels of our emission 1.5 comes P.R.2. We have quite a lot to tell you. This is the time when, clutching our left hands to our collective bosom, we declaim loudly "will the public please leave quietly by the nearest entrance", avoiding the Egress of course. The Birmingham Evening Mail today has a large advertisement by British Rail advising us of the new cheap rates to see those things we always wish we had missed - sorry, those things which we had always wished to see... like The Tower of London! Come to think of it, perhaps we had better visit it soon.

Novacon 4 is coming closer. We now have 233 registered, some of you involuntarily. Our hotel rooms have been going like hot cakes - we have run out of double rooms at the Con. hotel, but quite apart from our personal reminiscences, there are no double rooms left, except in the New Victoria, so if you want them, ask soon. There are still a few single rooms in the main Con. hotel, but please book quickly, particularly if you want something exotic, like a bath. Prizes will be given for suggestions as to what is exotic and like a bath. Remember those old Victorian ones with lions feet resting on their balls! We could go too far in this direction, but for No. 239, this is not bad.

Those of you who have been to Cons before will know that you cannot throw a brick without hitting an Author. We would request that those of you who are coming for the first time do not try this experiment, as Authors are easily discouraged and, anyway, some of them are quite good throwers with bricks. We anticipate having the pleasure of the Company of Jim Elish, Chip Delany, Anne McCaffrey, Ken Bulmer, Mark Adlard, Bob Shaw, James White, Don Malcolm, Christopher Priest, John Brunner and Brian Aldiss. These we know of, we expect that there will be other personalia, including many notable fans, which brings us, of course, to our most notable personalium, (come, you have heard of a spaghetti), Ken Slater. Ken is our Guest of Honour, if you have not realised this by now. Indeed, if you have realised it, it is now too late to do anything about it, because we are firmly convinced that this is the man that Novacon 4 should honour and who will honour us by doing his stuff as our guest. There are other personalia - three people with allergies to feather pillows and one to eggs, two Pekinese and only four people who want baths. Robert Hoffman says there are six people who want baths, but we think two might only be status symbols, or perhaps they want to turn them into something exotic, (Pauline says they may be renting them out); anyway, they should be easy to spot, even by the blind.

We have just had a thought. It may be that these two extra baths which appear to have crept in, may be used as Fancy Dress. If you spot two baths creeping into the Fancy Dress, please do not pull out their plugs, as their balls will run down. We should remind you that Novacon Fancy Dress parties usually show a great range of costume, from the thought-up-on-the-spur-of-the-moment, to the complex rig of a 24 gun space corvette acting petty officer on furlough while being considered for a Court Martial for performing unsanitary acts with a Vegan Princess (2nd Class), while she was unclean, in a bath with lions feet. This attempt was unsuccessful, we should point out, because the epaulettes were mauve and not the dirty brown required by custom. That should encourage you. Try dressing up as the Vegan Princess (2nd Class), with lions feet. There will be a prize for the best costume and it and all the other prizes will be awarded on the Sunday.

chairman: Dr. Jack Cohen

committee: Pauline E. Dungate · Stan Eling · Robert Hoffman  
Annie Peyton · Hazel C. Reynolds

We aim to give you plenty of time after the Buffet to make up for the Fancy Dress, or to make up for any other omissions. This year the Buffet will be cheaper, but with more food, less elegantly dressed. We will have baked potatoes and continue in that style with chicken pieces and a variety of salad things; it looks like quite a lot from the promises and the price will be well under £2.00., including wine. Please do take some action now about this Buffet Ticket, even if you do not want a room. This is very important, as we must know the numbers well in advance to get you the best value.

We have decided, at this Con., and we think it is a good idea for others, to release those poor book sellers so that they may participate in the programme. (Please note who our Guest of Honour is!) The Book Room will be open at restricted times, for an hour or so, and will close during most of the programme items. There will be films running at the same time as many of the programme items, so do not feel that without a Book Room there will be nothing to do. The films will be repeated several times, so that even if you want to do something else, and who does not sometimes, you will be able to organise your time. The Art Exhibition, too, will be open at much the same restricted times. We want to take a lot of trouble with the Art on this occasion; we are putting on a proper Exhibition and will be asking you for your vote for the three best pieces, so that we may give a prize, donated by Ken Slater, for the best. Remember to let us know if you are bringing Art Work along and your approximate requirements for space. On the Sunday we will have a general award giving, immediately after lunch, and this will, of course, include the NOVA. Do, if you have read any Fan Magazines in the last year, nominate by sending a comment, howsoever brief, to Hazel Reynolds.

Other items of interest:

#### COPY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISING IN THE PROGRAMME BOOKLET

The booklet will be A5 (8½ x 5.7/8)ins. Printed offset litho.

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FINAL COPY DATE 1st September

All copy to: Stan Eling,  
124, Galton Road,  
Smetawick,  
Warley, Worcs.  
B67 5JS.

There are a couple of other Cons which we should give some space to:-

Firstly, SFancon 5 which will be held at Ghent in Belgium over the weekend August 30th to September, 2nd, 1974. The Con is being held in University Halls of Residence and the whole weekend can be done on a cost under £25.00., including travelling fares to and from Ghent. Full details from Vernon Brown.

Secondly, there is, of course, SeaCon which seems to have become involved in a space warp because it has put Coventry in the South East. Sincerely, we understand the problem and we are going to be talking about it on the Sunday morning.

Which brings us rather neatly to our programme. So far we are having Peter Weston talking about his experiences as a TAFS delegate, if he survives; we will have a panel of Authors talking about the Hugo Winners; another panel will discuss Religious Concepts in Science Fiction, there will be a Lecture on 'Magic in Science Fiction' by Tom Shippey and Professor Frelan will sketch in some technological solutions to our population problems in his usual quiet, terrifying way, plus many other items and all the other promises other Con. Booklets make.

P.S. These people have already registered. Can 233 fen be wrong? Wait for the next thrilling instalment. Honestly, I am beginning to look forward to that instalment which reads: "With one bound Jack was free".

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ken Slater.            | 47. Vic Hallett.         | 92. Miss Hazel Salter.    |
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| 6. Hazel Reynolds.        | 51. Jan Jansen.          | 96. Tim Broadribb,        |
| 7. Chris Morgan.          | 52. Mrs. Jansen.         | 97. Ditto.                |
| 8. Vernon Brown.          | 53. Martin Stallard.     | 98. Christine Hay.        |
| 9. Pat Andrews.           | 54. Rod Milner.          | 99. George Hay.           |
| 10. Stan Eling.           | 55. Charles E. Winstone. | 100. Phil Rogers.         |
| 11. Helen Eling.          | 56. Simon Joukes.        | 101. Doreen Rogers.       |
| 12. Fred Hemming.         | 57. Caroline De Koning.  | 102. Tricia Parker.       |
| 13. Bob Shaw.             | 58. Mike Meara.          | 103. Ian Maule.           |
| 14. Mrs. Shaw.            | 59. Pat Meara.           | 104. Greg Pickersgill.    |
| 15. James White.          | 60. Hartley Patterson.   | 105. Richard Rendell.     |
| 16. Richard Newham.       | 61. Graham Book.         | 106. Martin Peake.        |
| 17. Meg Palmer.           | 62. Vic Jones.           | 107. Paul Oliver.         |
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