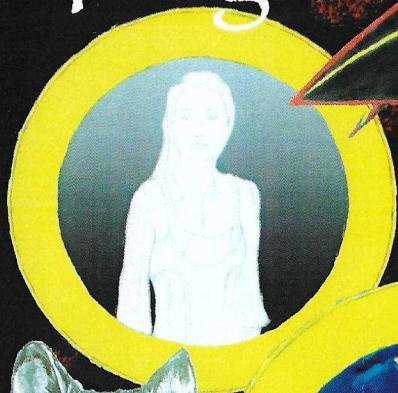


Novacon 41 Programme Book



Guest of Honour
John Meaney

Welcome to
Novacon 41
Guest of Honour: John Meaney
11th – 12th November 2011
The Park Inn, Nottingham

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Acknowledgements

John Meaney for the cover. Alastair Reynolds and Claire Briailey for their articles. Serena Culfeather for organising the artshow. Vernon Brown for the GCSFE Quiz, Steve Green for administering the Nova Awards and Kevin Clarke & Steve Green for running the Novacon **website**.

Novacon: How the Chair sees it

Steven Lawson

Hello, hope you had a good convention.

Should you be one of the few to read this at the con, hello, hope you are having a good time, I'll be in the bar, mine's a pint.

Seriously though, who would have thought all those years ago when I shyly turned up for my first Novacon that I would end up "running" Novacon 41? Back then the Committee were like unto Gods – they conversed with people I had only dreamed of meeting, and seemed to be in complete control of all they surveyed.

As far as I know they might well have been in complete control, but after being on a number of Con Committees I tend to doubt it.

Back then I really was shy, I took a lot of photographs during my first Novacon and then the next year showed them to people as an icebreaker, back then no instant digital gratification, you really did have to wait to the next Con to show people things like this: no email, no Facebook, no Live Journal, no Twitter, no flying cars, no jet packs oops sorry channelling Tony Berry there.

But I digress, I'm really proud to be chairing this year's Novacon and hope I am doing/have done a good job, but I couldn't have done/be doing it without the rest of my committee, Alice, Cat, Eve, Helena, John, Richard and Tony, thank you very much, also Dave Hicks for ferrying Cat back and forth, Martin Hoare for tech, Serena Culfeather for the Art Show, to name but a few. There are many other people to thank, you know who you are and I hope to catch up with you all at the bar, but just in case, thank you.

I am also very, very pleased to have John Meaney as our Guest of Honour, from my point of view John is the ideal Novacon guest, he started as a fan like the rest of us and showed us what you can do if you work really hard at your craft, and now he is a Pro, but still has his fannish core. In addition I want to say a big thank you to him for providing the cover artwork for this programme book, is this a first time a GoH author has done this?

Enjoy the weekend and don't forget to join Novacon 42 before you leave.



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 Briar Rose Hotel on Bennett's Hill in Birmingham, just 5 minutes walk 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 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**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: **www.birminghamsfgroup.org.uk**

John Meaney

An appreciation by Alastair Reynolds

I'm not sure I'd want to get lost inside John Meaney's head. Not so much because it's a frightening place – although there are certainly a few dark recesses I wouldn't want to poke around in too much – but because it's just so vast and labyrinthine, full of mirrors, trapdoors and secret passageways. John knows a lot of stuff, and he's absorbed it so deeply that he can tease out exactly the subtle, non-obvious connections that are grist to any novelist. For a science fiction writer (although there's rather more to John than just science fiction) that's an especially useful skill. John's books and stories go interesting places.

I've known John for about ten years, although our careers had been paralleling each other (sort of) for about a decade before that. "Spring Rain", John's first piece of fiction appeared in *Interzone* in 1992, two years after my own first publication in that magazine. I remember reading it with tremendous admiration. It was fluent, elegant, effortlessly evocative in its descriptions – conjuring a future that was both familiar and plausibly exotic. It also opened the first portal into the world of the mu-space pilots, a fictional realm John would return to throughout his career.

John went on to become a fairly regular contributor to *Interzone* throughout the nineties, publishing a slew of inventive, knife-sharp stories. This was a source of considerable irritation for me, since it more or less coincided with a period when, after a handful of promising early sales, I couldn't get them to buy a damned thing. What dark secrets did this Meaney character know? What sinister mind-control techniques was he exerting on the *Interzone* editors?

I should have known better, of course. While John does in fact possess sinister mind-control techniques, the reason he was selling to *Interzone* in such annoyingly prolific terms was that he was simply very, very good – and they recognised it.

Back then, when "surfing the internet" consisted of being able to use FTP and not much more, it was no easy matter to find out about other writers. All I knew of this John Meaney person was what was printed in the terse

biographical notes appended to his stories. He was British, or Irish background, and he worked in IT. I think an interest in martial arts may have been mentioned, if it wasn't already evident from the stories themselves. In fact, as the nineties wore on, John became an increasingly familiar and popular figure at SF conventions – but since I wasn't going to them myself (and didn't start doing so until well into millennium) it was a while before our paths crossed. By then, John was already well into a career as a novelist.

John had published his first book, *TO HOLD INFINITY*, in 1998. I bought it on sight, not just because I'd read and enjoyed his short fiction, and fully expected it to be good (it was) but also because it had the most gorgeous Jim Burns cover. Yes, shallow of me – but I've long held to the belief that while there are good books (and records) with rubbish covers, there are very few rubbish books (or records) with good covers. And so it proved. *TO HOLD...* is a modern space opera which, saturated as it is with both an insider's view of cybernetics, and a real, bruise-raw understanding of martial arts, couldn't really have been written by anyone else. It also offered our first novel-length view of the mu-space universe, to which John returned for the Nulapeiron sequence, beginning with *PARADOX* (2000), and concluding with *CONTEXT* (2002) and *RESOLUTION* (2005). A few years into the new century, with four shiny post-cyberpunk space operas under his black belt, it would have been tempting to assume the trajectory of John's career was going to be pretty easy to extrapolate – more of the same, basically.

But John's cleverer than that. What followed was a violent swerve into the decidedly not-shiny world of the Tristopolis books – *BONE SONG* (2007) and *DARK BLOOD* (2008). Excursions into a parallel universe in which technology functions – there are skyscrapers, motorbikes (all right, made out of bones), aircraft – but in which it is powered by vast reserves of psychic energy given off by the processing of corpses on an industrial scale – are you with me? The Tristopolis books are police procedurals, though, and on their own terms they function with meticulous clockwork logic, fully inhabiting their invented cosmology, so that – while we're presented with wraiths and spirits and haunted elevators and a kind of occult forensics department – we're never in any doubt that John is in complete control of the genre mechanics of his story, trusting his readers to trust him.

That deftness with thriller conventions served John well for *NEW JERUSALEM*, an absorbing alternate-history cold-war spy novel, set in the early 1960s in a world in which a new Jewish state has been formed in Germany. As with all of John's books, there's a basic level of authenticity to the action sequences which is simply absent in a lot of writers – a sense that, if you were to stage the fights and chases, they'd make absolute sense as described. It's not just that John's martial arts background has given him a thorough grounding in what does and doesn't work, in purely physical terms. It's also that he's an intensely visual writer, with a keen eye for the spatial relationships between things, whether it's characters squaring off in a room, or the critical organisation of buildings and sightlines in an outdoor scene. John's books feel like they've been thought-through, and that conviction carries through the reader. It's a far harder thing to pull off than you'd think, but because John gets it right, without any fuss, it's not always obvious that there's a massive amount of basic craft going on behind the scenes, setting things up so that the reader is immediately there, immersed in the picture with full HD-vision.

I've said nothing about *RAGNAROK*, John's new return to the Nulapeirion universe (I'm reading it now), or the pseudonymous Thomas Blackthorne books. Nor have I said anything about all the other good things in John's writing: his neat way with a shorthand science explanation, his witty use of dialogue, his sharply delineated characters, his basic humanity and obvious enjoyment of life. John may take us to some grim and disturbing places, but we're never in any doubt as to the basic sanity of our guide.

That shouldn't be a surprise, because, in person, John is definitely one of the good guys. Often accompanied by his delightful wife Yvonne, John has been a popular fixture at conventions for many years now. A compact powerhouse (although not, I think, animated by the psychic energies of vast numbers of corpses – although, who knows?) John is an engaging and generous raconteur, with a ready wit and a brain fizzing with random connections, like Robbie the Robot on the verge of short-circuiting. I've never heard John say a bad word about another person in the SF community, and – fittingly, perhaps – I've never heard anyone say a bad word about John. My wife and I are lucky to count John and Yvonne as virtual neighbours in our hilly corner of South Wales, and we – as a field - are more than lucky to have him among us.

John Meaney

Bibliography

Novels

To Hold Infinity (Bantam/Transworld, 1998)

Nulapeiron Sequence

Paradox (Bantam/Transworld, 2000)

Context (Bantam/Transworld, 2002)

Resolution (Bantam/Transworld, 2005)

Tristopolis books

Bone Song (Gollancz/Orion, 2007)

Dark Blood (UK title) Black Blood (US title) (Gollancz/Orion, 2008)

Josh Cumberland books (written as Thomas Blackthorne)

Edge (Angry Robot, 2010)

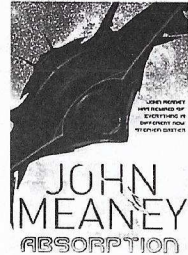
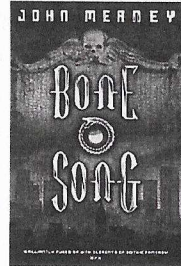
Point (Angry Robot, 2011)

Ragnarok trilogy

Absorption (Gollancz/Orion, 2011)

Transmission (Gollancz/Orion, 2012)

Resonance (Gollancz/Orion, 2013)



Short Stories

Spring Rain

Interzone 61 (1992).

Sanctification

Interzone 69 (1993) and in German translation (as Die Heiligung) in Die Verwandlung, ed. Wolfgang Jeschke, pub. Heyne (1996)

Sharp Tang

Interzone 82 (1994), reprinted in The Best Of Interzone, ed. David Pringle, pub. Voyager (1997, UK) and St Martin's Press (1997, US)

Timeslice

Interzone 75 (1993)

Parallax Transform

Interzone 89 (1994)

A Bitter Shade Of Blindsight

Interzone 110 (1996)

The Dreamlode

Interzone 158 (2000)

The Whisper Of Discs	Interzone 183 (2002) and was reprinted in The Year's Best Science Fiction, ed. Gardner Dozois, pub. St Martin's Press (2003)
Entangled Eyes Are Smiling	Interzone 190 (2003).
Blood and Verse	Aeon Magazine 1 (2004)
The Swastika Bomb	Live Without A Net, ed. Lou Anders, pub. Roc (2003), reprinted in Best Short Novels 2004, ed. Jonathan Strahan, pub. Science Fiction Book Club (2004), and in Modern Greats of Science Fiction, ed. Jonathan Strahan, pub. iBooks (2006), also in Russian translation in Fantastika Esli,(2005) and in Czech translation in Ikarie.
Diva's Bones	Interzone 193 (2004), reprinted in Year's Best Fantasy 5, ed. David G. Hartwell & Kathryn Cramer, pub. Eos (2005)
Lost Time	Adventure vol. 1, ed. Chris Roberson, pub. MonkeyBrain Books (2005)
Looking Through Mother's Eyes	Futureshocks, ed. Lou Anders, pub. Roc (2006)
Sideways From Now	Fast Forward 1, ed. Lou Anders, pub. Pyr (2007)
Via Vortex	Sideways In Crime, ed. Lou Anders, pub. Solaris (2008)
Necroflux Day	The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction v.3, ed. George Mann, pub. Solaris (2008), reprinted in The Year's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy: 2010 edition, ed. Rich Horton, pub. Prime Books.
Emptier Than Void	Subterfuge, ed. Ian Whates, pub. Newcon Press (2008).
From The Heart	The New Space Opera 2, ed. Gardner Dozois and Jonathan Strahan, pub. Eos (2009)

The Programme

Friday

19.00 – 19.30 Opening Ceremony

Your chance to meet the committee and our Guest of Honour, find out what treats are in store for you over the weekend, and find out how to volunteer your services.

19.30 – 20.30 They Tried To Make Him Go To Rehab

We tried for Jonathan Ross, but even the BBC couldn't afford his contract. At least Steve Green will host his infamous Novacon chatshow for a pint and a packet of peanuts, and actually he's not that fussed about the peanuts.

21.00 – 22.00 Book Launch Party

Come along and get a fresh, sparkling copy of John Meaney's new book *Transmission* long before it is in the shops, signed then and there by the author. Free wine and nibbles!

22.30 – 00.00 Charades

Take a break from all the intellectual cut and thrust and free your inner child with some physical silliness.

Saturday

10.00 – 11.00 The Dark Side Of The Universe

Push those hangover cures to the limit with the first of this weekend's science talks, featuring Dr. Meghan Gray from the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nottingham who will discuss the mysterious dark matter that we believe makes up most of the mass in the Universe: why we think it is out there, the techniques we use to find it, and how it underpins the growth of structure on cosmological scales. She will also play devil's advocate and ask the question: what if we've got it all wrong? Are there alternative explanations for the observations we see?

11.30 – 13.00 Book Auction

Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will help you expand your extensive book collection with some second hand but well loved bargains.

13.30 – 14.30 Guest of Honour Talk

Come and get to know John Meaney our Guest of Honour.

15.00 – 16.00 British Paperbacks, especially SF: a brief history.

Chris Morgan presents a history of paperbacks in Britain from the earliest times up to about 1960, concentrating on SF, with lots of lovely cover art depicting scientifically inaccurate and sexist subject matter

16.30 – 17.30 This is our Fannish Life

Rog Peyton and Stan Nichols share a wealth of anecdotes in their personal take on the differences between London and Birmingham fandom and especially what was happening in the 1950s/60s.

18.00 – 19.00 Reel Horrorshow

Steve Green presents a selection of weird and wonderful short movies, culled from his years running the Delta Film Award

19.30 – 20.30 I Can Make You Write

John Meaney leads a item that in his own words is 'guaranteed to be bonkers' that promises exactly what it says on the tin.

21.30 – 22.30 15:1

Our take on the popular TV quiz show.

23.00 – 00.30 Novacon Considered as a Helix of Semi-funny Skits

Ian Sorenen and his few remaining friends look at the history of Novacon and treat it with the sort of scathing contempt you'd expect. There will be fun, songs and a complete absence of veracity. But of course there will be a happy ending: you will be happy it's ended.

Sunday

10.30 – 11.30

Megadeath

Dr Frazer Pearce, also from the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nottingham, will cheer us all up by looking at potential catastrophes that could kill a million plus people, such as asteroid strikes, plague etc., discussing the scientific background behind them.

12.00 – 13.30

Art Auction

Come along and treat yourself to a piece or two of the fantastic artwork that has been on display in the artshow over the weekend. Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan are the auctioneers.

14.00 – 15.00

Badly Drawn Fans

An updated version of the popular item from Corflu where Dave Hicks will narrate a slide show of his own and other people's fan art. Help him figure out why the hell he did some of those drawings. Hear how to get work from fan artists without too much violence, advice on your fannish posture and top tips on how to become – and stay – a Big Name Fan by appearing regularly in cartoons.

15.30 – 16.30

Attack of the Sixty Three Inch Woman

Since Joanna Russ's death there seems to be a dramatic increase in voices out there who perceive an apparent lack of women writing and being published in SF. Is this perception correct or flawed? Theresa Derwin leads the debate with Helena Bowles, Ian Whates, Kari and others

17.00 – 18.00

Awards Ceremony

We say a big thank you to all those who made it possible, give out lots of fabulous gifts and prizes, and award the Novas.

19.00 – Late

Beer and Food Tasting

But of course it's by no means over yet. Come and sample some Mexican food and interesting beer and soft drinks and treat yourself to another night in the hotel. Entry ticket required, available at the Registration Desk throughout the weekend for a small fee or in exchange for three bottles of your favourite beer.

The Artshow

Serena Culfeather

It isn't easy to come up with different and more interesting ways of saying

Please come and visit the Art Show

so this is a new tactic!

New to conventions, the Art Show was a bit of a scary prospect for me. It is invariably housed in a far corner and having made that journey, the visitor is faced with signs warning against a number of crimes you might – wittingly or otherwise – commit whilst in there. I'm the sort of person who sees such signs and immediately worries that I will have an uncontrollable urge to carry out these evil deeds and be dragged out and de-badged.

Having passed the getting-over-the-threshold hurdle, I then worry that I am not a suitably art-appreciating person – will that be obvious? Should I offer my art qualifications for verification? What if I don't GET the images? Will I have to offer an opinion?

As you might have gathered, the inside me is really quite paranoid and nervy and I like to think she is suitable sat upon most of the time. Taking the rather huge leap in assuming there are others equally as weird as me, let me assure Novacon-goers new, old and intermediate that our Art Show is NOT a thing of scariness and our corridor is a bright and friendly one.

I love art and all the different forms it takes and like a good book, there is a story in every frame or sculpture which the viewer can put his or her own interpretation on. There are things I like that you wouldn't and equally there are items which sell for millions that I wouldn't give wall space to.

In fact, I have no wall space left for artwork and all surfaces are claimed in my house. However, this doesn't prevent me from looking and appreciating art works and in truth, it's never stopped me from purchasing more either.

There is always something new to see in our Art Show and although we are a small convention – as conventions go – I like to think we put on a good display of art work that will never be disappointing.

You need to arrive with your convention badge and we'd rather you didn't smear chocolate or ice-cream over the exhibits but other than that, there are no rules and you are free to look and think and perhaps be inspired.

General Certificate Of Science Fiction Education (and draw)

Vernon Brown

On the next few pages you will find a GCSE Question Paper. You should also find a loose A4 size Answer Sheet – if not please contact Registration.

This is a multiple choice quiz. Each question has been given several answers, only one of which is correct. They are often abbreviated because giving them in full would make the correct answer too obvious. You must match your answer to one of the given ones. It's a bit like being given specifications for making a key, together with five different locks. If the key is made correctly it will fit one of the locks, if it's not, it won't.

INSTRUCTIONS

1/ There are three Sections to the Paper – Section B is easy, Section A is medium and Section C has harder questions. You have to submit two Sections which must include Section A. If you submit Sections A&B you will obtain an Ordinary Level GCSE Certificate if you pass, if you submit Sections A&C you will gain an Advanced Level GCSE Certificate if you pass. Pass mark is 40% and each Certificate is graded.

2/ Read each question, decide on your answer and match it to a given answer. When you have answered as many questions as possible decide whether you will submit Sections A&B or Sections A&C. If both Levels are submitted only the Ordinary Level paper will be marked. Please submit your answers under your own name, precociousness is one thing, giving a certificate or draw prize to an infant is another.

3/ The Answer Paper has numbered and lettered squares that correspond to the questions and answers on the Question Paper. Carefully BLOCK OUT with black or blue ink, ballpoint or felt tip the squares corresponding to your chosen answers. Do NOT circle, cross or otherwise mark the squares, or use pencil, because the marking mechanism will not be able to cope with it and your paper will be rejected. If you make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.

4/ Similarly block out the squares corresponding to the LEVEL you are submitting ([O]* OR [A]*) AND the SECTION you have chosen ([O]* OR [A]*), otherwise they will be marked at "O" Level. PRINT your name and address legibly in the space provided – your answer paper will be returned to you with this part showing through the window of a window envelope so the postal services must be able to read it if necessary.

5/ Post your Answer Paper in the GCSE box at Registration before 11.00 a.m. on SUNDAY, preferably earlier, but watch the GCSE posters for any alteration to this deadline. Please only fold it once on the arrowed line. All Answer Papers submitted will be entered into a free draw.

6/ I hope to be able to mark the papers and give certificates at NOVACON, if I can't, they will be posted to you. Ask me on Sunday afternoon what I will do. The draw prize will be given at the Closing Ceremony.

7/ Finally, Certificates will be given or sent directly to you, no one else will know how you have done unless you tell them. So please have a go, you may be better than you think.

SECTION A QUESTIONS (MEDIUM)

01/ Which film invented the countdown for a spaceships launch?

a/ DFIM b/ FMITM c/ FP d/ FTETTM e/ JTTS

02/ In which novel are people kept happy with the drug Soma?

a/ BNW b/ NEF c/ TSM d/ TTM e/ U

03/ Who is the favourite composer of Alex in a "A Clockwork Orange"?

a/ Beethoven b/ Handel c/ Mozart d/ Sibelius e/ Wagner

04/ In which film does Yul Brynner play a robot gunslinger?

a/ Random Quest b/ Robocity c/ Timeslide d/ Waterworld e/ Westworld

05/ What is the number of the robot who becomes intelligent in "Short Circuit" (film)?

a/ 1 b/ 3 c/ 5 d/ 7 e/ 9

06/ What menace do the fire breathing dragons of Pern destroy?

a/ D b/ K c/ M d/ N e/ T

07/ Who writes the "Honor Harrington" novels?

a/ DD b/ DW c/ HH d/ JB e/ TT

08/ In which decade did the term "Robot" first appear?

a/ 1890s b/ 1900s c/ 1910s d/ 1920s e/ 1930s

- 09/ In the novel "The Death of Grass" what kills it?
a/ Climate change b/ Fungus c/ Nematodes d/ Pesticides e/ Virus
- 10/ What is the name of the spaceship in the first "Alien" film?
a/ Anastasia b/ Explorer c/ Freedom d/ Nostromo e/ Pegasus
- 11/ In "Escape from New York" what has Manhattan become?
a/ Army camp b/ Isolation hospital c/ Museum d/ Prison e/ Reservation
- 12/ What does the "T" stand for in James T Kirk?
a/ Taylor b/ Theodore c/ Thomas d/ Tiberius e/ Trafalgar
- 13/ The recent exhibition "Out Of This World: Science Fiction but" was held where?
a/ BL b/ BM c/ LU d/ NBC e/ VAAM
- 14 – 17. From which stories are the following first lines/sentences taken?
- 14/ Brother Francis Gerard might never have discovered the blessed documents, had it not been for the pilgrim with girded loins who appeared during that novices Lenten fast.
a/ ACFL b/ ATF c/ BIA d/ BTJ e/ TIA
- 15/ When a day that you happen to know is a Wednesday starts off by sounding like a Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere.
a/ BTGH b/ BUH c/ IHH d/ TDOTT e/ TMS
- 16/ Once upon a time there was a Martian called Valentine Michael Smith.
a/ FMOM b/ NEF c/ SIASL d/ TT e/ TV
- 17/ Just as he pulled himself up to the rock ledge, he heard a sudden rattle and felt a prick of fangs.
a/ APOM b/ EA c/ JTTCOTE d/ TI e/ TP

SECTION B QUESTIONS (EASY)

- 18/ Tatooine is a planet in which SF series?
a/ DW b/ RD c/ ST d/ SW e/ V
- 19/ What is the name of the Paranoid Android in "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy"?
a/ Alvin b/ CPO c/ Gavin d/ Marvin e/ Robin
- 20/ Who was Flash Gordon's main enemy?
a/ Balur b/ Black Knight c/ Ming the Merciless d/ Odin e/ Vale the Vicious
- 21/ What was the name of Hans Solo's ship?
a/ Centurion b/ Eagle c/ Millenium Falcon d/ Quest e/ Trader's Love

- 22/ Who, in a film, sings "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do" as his mind deteriorates?
a/ Arnold b/ Charly c/ HAL 9000 d/ IBM e/ Madison
- 23/ In which decade did "Eagle" comic first appear?
a/ 1930s b/ 1940s c/ 1950s d/ 1960s e/ 1970s
- 24/ In the novel "Day of the Triffids" on which island do the main characters end up?
a/ A b/ G c/ IOD d/ IOM e/ IOW
- 25/ At the end of the film "Planet of the Apes" what wreckage is seen?
a/ Big Ben b/ Eiffel Tower c/ Flying Saucer d/ Statue of Liberty e/ Submarine
- 26/ What are the Sliding Doors in the film of the same name?
a/ Airlock b/ Carriage c/ Lift d/ Prison e/ Time portal
- 27/ In the film "Frequency" how is important information exchanged?
a/ Computer b/ Microdot c/ Morse d/ Radio e/ Telephone
- 28/ After who are the Hugo Awards named?
a/ JBH b/ HG c/ HGW d/ HRH e/ RAH
- 29/ Who are the pleasure loving people in "The Time Machine"?
a/ Alumi b/ Eloi c/ Morlocks d/ Siths e/ Solarians
- 30/ How many Laws of Robotics were there originally?
a/ 1 b/ 2 c/ 3 d/ 4 e/ 5
- 31 – 33. From which stories do the following first and last lines/sentences come?
- 31/ He loved Big Brother (last line).
a/ ACO b/ AF c/ AGDO d/ BNW e/ NEF
- 32/ Overhead, without any fuss, the stars were going out (last line).
a/ DNMM b/ FATE c/ LTBL d/ TAN e/ TNBNOG
- 33/ Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Western Spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun (first lines).
a/ FOTMP b/ RFTS c/ SW d/ THHGTTG e/ WSU

SECTION C QUESTIONS (HARDER)

- 18/ Which 1968 film was based on "The Sentinel" by ACC?
a/ IOTBS b/ JCW c/ TASO d/ TT e/ VOTF
- 19/ What was Georges Melies 1902 epic film called?
a/ AALL b/ AU c/ SEB d/ LVDLL e/ MTM
- 20/ In which 1940's novel did the hero find himself in a world of SF?
a/ AWOD b/ SP c/ TFIH d/ WMU e/ WOI

- 21/ Shakespeare's "The Tempest" is adapted into which 1956 film?
a/ FP b/ G c/ JIS d/ KOTU e/ RUR
- 22/ The assassination of Hitler in 1944 is the basis for which novel?
a/ AH b/ DOAD c/ FOTR d/ IHHD e/ TAWWT
- 23/ Which of the following titles is odd man out?
a/ Out of the Silent Planet b/ Perelandra c/ That Hideous Strength d/ The World Brain
- 24/ In "Lest Darkness Fall" (de Camp) with what major innovation does the time traveller change the past?
a/ Antibiotics b/ Dentistry c/ Gunpowder d/ Modern maths e/ Radio
- 25/ Who are the two counties occupying much of North America in PKD's "The Man in the High Castle"?
a/ Arabia/Italy b/ China/India c/ France/Spain d/ Germany/Japan e/ Russia/Mexico
- 26/ What produces the power to propel the Nautilus in "20,000 Leagues under the Sea" (novel JV)?
a/ Battery b/ Charcoal c/ Gunpowder d/ Oil e/ Sunlight
- 27/ Where would you find the "Maison d'Ailleurs"?
a/ Arrakis b/ England c/ France d/ Switzerland e/ Videssos
- 28/ In "Quatermass and the Pit", what was in the pit?
a/ Alien rubbish b/ Nuclear bomb c/ Spaceship d/ Time machine e/ Transmitter
- 29/ To start with Captain Barlennan, like his crew, did not like heights. What is the novel?
a/ Circumlunar b/ Colony Ship c/ Deluge d/ Mission of Gravity e/ Waterworld
- 30/ The Angevin Empire is the main setting for a series of stories by whom?
a/ ACC b/ DD c/ EES d/ HBP e/ RG
- 31 – 33. From which stories are the following last lines/sentences taken?
- 31/ "It's a cookbook" he said.
a/ CFS b/ DOTT c/ IAL d/ TSM e/ TTM
- 32/ Sam woke.
a/ F b/ L c/ TLS d/ TSW e/ TTT
- 33/ Her words echoing hauntingly clear in the void she had left behind her: I didn't do anything to die for . . . I didn't do anything.
a/ AFA b/ LMOE c/ TCE d/ TLT e/ TSM

That Was The Year That Was

Tony Berry

This year is the 40th anniversary of Novacon. Ah yes, 1971, the year when the luminaries of the Aston University SF Group said "Hey, why don't we put on a con right here!". So what else happened in 1971? Quite a lot actually.

This was the year that the UK went decimal. I remember walking down to the shop clutching my New Pence coins; I can't remember what I bought but sweets is a good bet cos I was 13 and fat. MPs also voted for the UK to join the EEC or Common Market. How did that work out? Only time will tell.

Just to make you cry into your beer, the average price of a house was £5,632 and petrol was 33p a gallon. But inflation was 8.6% and set to go a lot higher.

1971 could be said to be the start of the Digital Age: the microprocessor was invented by Intel, Texas Instruments launched the first pocket calculator, the first floppy disks were used, the first email sent and the first internet chatrooms appeared.

What else? Well, the first CAT scanner and liquid crystal display. The Open University began TV broadcasts and some guys drove a car - on the Moon. North Sea oil production began in Norway, China was admitted to the UN and Greenpeace was founded. In the US the voting age was lowered to 18, while in Switzerland women were given the right to vote for the first time (and you thought they were really advanced). Disneyland opened in Florida and both Qatar and Sierra Leone won independence from Britain.

But I haven't mentioned the second most important event of 1971. The other institution beloved of Fans celebrating its 40th anniversary is the Campaign for Real Ale, which was founded by four blokes on holiday in Ireland. Back then seven mega-breweries made 75% of all beer in the UK and owned half of the pubs. Fizzy gnats'-piss was on the menu and handpumps were fast disappearing. The Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale as it was known then was sneered at by the industry but has now become the most successful consumer group in Europe with 120,000 members, so raise a pint of Black Sheep to the Fab Four.

Of course plenty of bad things happened as well, not least the Vietnam War, which was still dragging on. But let's focus on the positive.

Born in 1971: Lance Armstrong, Winona Ryder, Mariah Carey, Tupac Shakur, and some of you no doubt. Mick Jagger married Bianca Perez Morena de Macias and George Harrison put on the concert for Bangladesh.

The most popular TV programme was Opportunity Knocks. So there you have it – dross like The X-Factor, Britain's Got Talent, Strictly Come Dancing, it's all the fault of Hughie Green. Steve Green's dad.

RNIB Talking Books

Tony Berry

Novacon has been supporting Talking Books since the mid 80s and this year is no different. So watch out for raffle tickets being sold and buy plenty.

Last year Iain Banks presented a cheque for £4,100.00 to a representative from the Royal National Institute For The Blind's Talking Books organisation. This amount had been collected over a number of years at various conventions, along with donations from cons and sales of Becon books. The RNIB sent me a list of books which had been put forward for recording and the Novacon committee chose several of these and made further suggestions of SF and Fantasy titles that they might consider. The first of these to be recorded is Hull Zero Three by Greg Bear and I have received a copy of the book used by the reader, a regular CD and a "Daisy" CD which will only play on a Talking Books machine (If you know anybody who uses one, let us know and they can have it).

The second book to be recorded will be Redemption Ark by Alastair Reynolds.

There will be a dedication on all recordings which reads "The recording of this book has been made possible by a donation from the members of UK Science Fiction conventions". Naturally we hope to get more SF or Fantasy books recorded in the future.

The Nova Came First

Claire Brialey

Imagine, please, that you are at your first SF convention.

No, it could happen. You might live in Nottingham and be interested in science fiction and you heard about Novacon so you decided to come along. There's a tradition of SF fandom in and around Nottingham – clubs, conventions, shops as well as fans who live there – and maybe there was even some not completely contemptuous coverage of Novacon in the local media some time in the past couple of years.

Or you're a fan of John Meaney; you've read his novels or his short fiction, or you may even have heard about his exploits at other conventions where he gave talks requiring real proper scientific equations or demonstrated martial arts – and you are hoping that he will do it all again, or even better call for a volunteer from the audience who will attempt to do the splits between two chairs while correcting the formulae for FTL space travel and hurt themselves – and he's the guest of honour at Novacon 41 so here you are.

Or you have recently discovered an enthusiasm for SF fanzines and... no, fair enough. We can try for suspension of disbelief but let's keep this within the realms of the possible.

Of course, if this *is* your first convention you get a free pass here, and that may be the first straightforward thing that's happened since you stumbled with relief upon the bar and sat down to sort out all these booklets and leaflets that the chap behind the table in reception thrust at you along with stern injunctions always to wear your badge and never to lose your lanyard, unless it was the other way round. You may note that no one else around you seems to be reading this programme book. It's traditional to assert that true fans only read the programme book on the way home from the convention, whereas in fact it's more likely that they'll never read it at all (sorry, Eve), and this is why some people will spend the whole convention asking other people what's happening now and complaining that they've missed something they wanted to see. These may be the same people who have declared loudly before the con that they never read progress reports, while asking their friends to tell them everything they need to know about what's happening at Novacon, where and when it is this year, and whether there's anything they need to take with them. If you stick

around in SF fandom for a while you too will have the option to become a fan like this. Or, y'know, not.

Anyway, if you're in the bar you may notice that some of the other con attendees around you are reading other booklets. Some of them will be reading something electronic, or indeed having a conversation with a passing acquaintance which is much enhanced by being online despite the fact they're sitting next to one another, but some still have old-fashioned paper books like what there used to be back in the twentieth century, and some will have these booklets which you may eventually deduce are some of those fanzine thingies mentioned in one of the bits of paper that came in a bundle with this publication or which – being new to all this and not yet blasé about the idea of actually knowing what's meant to be going on – you've read about in advance in the progress reports. Or, in fact, you really are a fanzine fan and have travelled many miles to collect all the latest titles that are still published on paper by fans who actually show up at Novacon, and to vote in the Nova awards even though you didn't need to 'cos this year you could have done that from anywhere in Britain or Ireland, provided that you'd read six different eligible fanzines and were willing to make value judgements between them and you remembered and you cared.

Imagine instead that you are not a fanzine fan but you have been to Novacon before. You sometimes go along to the awards ceremony, since you're still around on Sunday afternoon and it's nice to thank the guest and committee and staff for showing you a good time; maybe you're keen to observe the drawing of the raffle, although it's not what it once was when you got to applaud every winner and their choice of prize and join in all the merry cries of 'Fix' when someone won who'd ever met any member of the committee or any other fans at all. To reach this pinnacle of entertainment, being in a benign and relaxed mood after having had a jolly enjoyable weekend hanging out with fellow science fiction fans, you're even prepared to tolerate that incomprehensible bit near the beginning where some little metal rockets are handed out to people who you know, or who at least seem familiar after all these years, but where you're not really clear what it is they've done to deserve this; still, everyone else seems to be applauding after a fashion, so maybe it's a special sort of raffle for people who do some sort of weird activity you don't want to enquire into too closely.

If you're really not bothered about fanzines you may be wondering why I'm apparently so worked up about all this. Novacon is, after all, one of

my favourite conventions, and SF fans are my people – except for that one over there, of course, who we try not to talk about. It might also seem strange to you that fanzines still have a formal place within Novacon when there aren't that many new issues put out for the convention, no one seems to have time to read them – which might mean there are quite a lot around or simply that even fanzine fans aren't prioritising reading what there is – so no one is really talking about anything new, and there are more former fanzine fans at the con than current ones. Is that it? Is it just nostalgia for a thing that we used to do?

Many years ago I did not write fanzines. I did not even read fanzines. I was young, I was foolish, I did not have a beard or drink real ale, and I didn't think that fanzines had anything to say to me or about my interests in SF fandom.

It turned out that I was quite wrong about all that, and during the past 25 years my position has therefore shifted a bit. The passage of time has ensured that I am now middle-aged and drink real ale (and commentary about any other parts of that description that have or haven't changed would be appreciated in a quiet aside rather than yelled across the bar), but so far as fanzines are concerned I'd come round before any of that happened.

My view changed because I came to find that fanzines are, in effect, all about me and what I value in SF fandom. Fanzines can contain both personal stories and critical analysis, in-depth research and ephemeral wit, observation, questioning, polemic, thoughtfulness and humour about SF and SF fans and the other things that interest and inspire us, often expressed in pictures as well as words, although fanzines can also contain art that works perfectly well just as art. Basically, fanzines can contain all the experiences of being an SF fan, from all sorts of perspectives, encompassing the utterly familiar and the almost totally alien and yet connecting me with other SF fans whole continents and/or several generations apart. As well as with the person sitting next to me in the bar who I could just, y'know, talk to directly instead.

Fanzines can even contain knob gags, although this is a reference inserted primarily to be able to mention the Eminent and Venerable Sir Peter Weston and the reason why he's never at Novacon these days even though he publishes a deeply worthwhile and fascinating fanzine and has won a rare and occasional Best Fan Nova as well as three of the regular fanzine sort. Over time, the gossip and jokes within and about our community also become part of the history we pass on to the next wave of fans who are just like us – and it's

one of the ways for them to tell that they are.

SF fanzines, then, are simply part of how I communicate within fandom and part of how I interact with other fans; there are other places where I talk about science fiction, enthuse about new ideas and rant about repeated mistakes, but fanzines are places where it lasts for more than the moment of the conversation. And it is a conversation, if it goes right: if there isn't response to a fanzine, if the editor isn't seeking some sort of reaction and engagement, then the fanzine becomes a soapbox or a pulpit rather than a meeting place. And we've got enough of those sorts of ways to spread our opinions around already. If there was no one reading the fanzines in which I write, or no one responding, or no one else producing other fanzines to carry on a different part of the conversation which interests them more at the moment – well, it would feel as though there was no point. There have been several times over the past decade, in particular, where it's seemed that might happen; but despite the enthusiastic take-up of alternative ways to chat and argue and stay in touch, fanzines have so far managed to get a new lease of life each time too.

But still, most people in SF fandom and most people specifically at Novacon don't produce or participate in fanzines, and even those who claim to value them as a significant aspect of fan activity don't appear to vote in the Novas or to even actually want to pick up a fanzine and read it, never mind take it away with them.

This summer I got given a large metal rocket for fan writing, which was utterly unexpected since I've never thought that my chances of winning a Hugo were significantly enhanced by actually being on the short-list, in the way that buying a ticket for the national lottery makes it only very slightly more likely that you'll win the big prize. The ceremony itself was overwhelming enough, but later that evening I thought that there isn't much to compare with the experience of walking into the fan lounge at a Worldcon with the Hugo award that you've just won and finding a roomful of your peers applauding you.

But there is. There was the first time we won a Nova award, back in 1996, a little bronze rocket that sits in the living room with its silver successors in a way that suggests we came third once and second lots of times. More than 75 people voted that year, and – although there was some heart-warming fannish commentary subsequently about how our fanzine winning was All Wrong, in a way that we have all come to understand is part of the process of SF community

awards – it seemed as though enough people were interested for it to feel meaningful. These were the people who knew about fanzines in the UK and the people who cared, saying that they'd enjoyed our fanzine.

We don't need awards to recognise that we appreciate what other people do in fandom; we can tell one another and indeed other people, make it personal and add some real value to the thanks and credit. SF fandom isn't a competitive sport, or at least not the way I want to do it; it's not the sort of pastime in which I'd expect anyone to participate primarily because they might win a prize. Most forms of appreciation are welcome, though, and the best appreciation is from people who know and care and understand what it is you do. The first time I won my own Nova award, in 2002, I was initially even more overwhelmed because that might mean it was *my* writing people liked, not just other contributions to my fanzine which meant they could cheerfully ignore my bits. I found out soon enough that only 30-odd people were voting by then, with at least 250 people listed as members of Novacon, which rather put it all in proportion. I know my place.

Fortunately, the Nova rules make pretty clear that the awards have no cosmic significance and are 'a friendly pat on the back' within the community; they're specifically about appreciation for the fanzine activity that people have enjoyed most in the past year, not about some objective standard of being 'the best'. Yet the winners often indicate not just what people happened to enjoy most that year, but the vibrancy of the fanzine field at the time.

I suffer from the common delusion that SF fandom, fun though it often is, was obviously *really* good just before I got into it and that I've therefore missed all the best bits. I've been in fandom for about twenty-five years and reading SF for some years before that; but my first fanzine was published for Novacon 25, sixteen years ago to this very night, and I assumed that fanzine fandom, too, was really good just before I started to pay attention. But last year the fanzine convention Corflu was held in the UK for the second time; and for that, along with Mark Plummer and Randy Byers who are themselves two of my favourite fan writers, I co-edited a collection of British fanzine material from the period in which I've been involved. It was illuminating to see from a distance how people had felt about the relevance and utility of fanzines and fanzine fandom over the past fifteen years. Even the periods of high fanzine activity involved a degree of looking over our shoulders to how it used to be, and a degree of anxiety about how long it could all be sustainable given the other ways in which

fans can connect with one another in writing, and of course whether any new blood was flowing in to replace those who had drifted away or actually died. Sometimes it seems as though we're spending more time worrying about how much time we've got left rather than deciding in that case we should make a point of enjoying it while we can. And it rather seems as though, when everyone was still just enjoying it, it was all so obvious why we were doing it that it went without saying. I still regret not being able to be a part of the fanzine activity that was taking place during the first twenty years of the Novas, when it seems to me that fanzines were more central to all the other things that people were doing in fandom. But maybe you did just have to be there.

I'd encourage everyone to look at the list of former Nova winners which will be tucked away somewhere else in this programme book, to see what other fans who cared about that sort of thing judged to have given them the most fanziney pleasure over the years. You can see who used to be active in fanzines; ideally there'll be a list with the current Nova ballot that will tell you who's actively producing them in the UK and Ireland now. There's some food for thought in that, far beyond the questions of who might win awards this year or whether there's enough interest and relevance in fanzines now to have Nova awards at all. But not nearly as much food for thought as can still be found in fanzines themselves. Yes, there are plenty of other places, in person, online and on paper, where fans gather for conversation and conviviality and the exchange of ideas and arguments and jokes and gossip; I enjoy being able to participate in some of those too. But fanzines are different, for me, because they're one of the intrinsic things that science fiction fans do. So here I am, still doing them. Sometimes they give you an award for that.

And that's why, despite the years when there have been more winners in the raffle than there were voters for the Novas – and when that would still have been the case if all of those who were even eligible to vote had felt informed, engaged and concerned enough to do so – the Nova awards I've won still mean something to me. Whatever other plaudits and brickbats I receive for what I do in fanzines, the Nova came first.

The Nova Awards Rules

The Nova Awards celebrate fanzines, fanzine writing and fanzine artwork produced by science fiction fans resident in the UK or Ireland, providing a friendly pat on the back to those whose efforts gave the greatest pleasure to Novacon members during the previous year. They have no vast cosmic significance. Should any difficulties arise in interpreting the rules governing the Nova Awards (henceforth referred to as the Novas), those concerned are urged to follow the course most in keeping with this spirit.

1. The Novas shall be announced at Novacon, the convention organised annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group.
2. The categories shall be "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist".
3. A trophy shall be supplied in each category by the Novacon committee, for presentation at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.
4. The trophies shall be presented by Novacon's guest(s) of honour (or, if unavailable, by the Novacon committee chair), on behalf of the convention membership.
5. In the event of a tie, the joint recipients shall be asked to share the trophy unless the Novacon committee is willing and able to fund a duplicate trophy.
6. As the Novas are awarded by popular vote, there is no mechanism for eligible editors, writers or artists to withdraw their work or themselves from consideration. A winner determined not to be honoured can always refuse to accept his or her award.
7. In the event that Novacon should not be held in any given year, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group shall be requested to underwrite a ballot in early October of the preceding Novacon's membership, using established criteria and deadlines. Winners shall be notified by e-mail and post, with the full results publicised through fanzines and electronic noticeboards. If the Birmingham Science Fiction Group is willing and able to fund trophies, these shall be presented at the next Eastercon or similarly major event.
8. Should Novacon be cancelled for a second year in succession, the Nova Award Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) shall meet with the committee of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group to decide as a matter of urgency whether to discontinue the Novas or allow another convention to take over Novacon's role.
9. For the purposes of the Novas, a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication concerned with science fiction and / or fantasy, fans of science fiction and / or fantasy, and / or related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other such publications or in response to letters of comment. In the event that eligibility is unclear, the decision of the Administrator shall be final.

10. The "Best Fanzine" category shall be open to any fanzine published in the UK or Ireland, provided at least one issue has been published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year. In cases where a fanzine has two or more editors, at least one must be resident in the UK or Ireland.

11. Electronic fanzines ("e-zines") shall be eligible in the "Best Fanzine" category, provided each issue is a distinct entity and a printed copy is available if preferred. A file copy must also be lodged with the Administrator, whose decision on eligibility shall be final.

12. The "Best Fan Writer" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of writing to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.

13. The "Best Fan Artist" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of artwork to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.

14. Voting shall be open to all Novacon members and to any UK / Irish resident, provided he or she has received at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).

15. Ballot forms shall be available on the Novacon website from 1 October each year, to facilitate voting by post or e-mail prior to Novacon. The deadline for postal and electronic votes shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday prior to Novacon; the deadline for voting in person shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday of Novacon.

16. Only one ballot form shall be accepted from each voter, and votes for themselves or their own fanzines will be disallowed (should a duplicate form be received, it should be clearly marked "Invalid" and exempt from the count).

17. Valid ballots should include the voter's name, address and telephone number, plus the titles of six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year which the voter has received (see point 14).

18. Ballots sent by post or handed in at the convention should be signed. Those sent electronically should emanate from the voter's known e-mail address.

19. Production of ballot forms, organisation of the count and general promotion of the Novas shall be the responsibility of the Administrator, appointed by the preceding year's Novacon committee. The Administrator should have a good basic knowledge of British fanzines.

20. The Administrator shall in turn nominate up to two Novacon members to

assist with the count on the Sunday of the convention; again, they should have a wide knowledge of fanzines. During the count, they shall also assist the Administrator with issues of eligibility and ballot validity. The decision of this group shall be final.

21. First-, second- and third-place votes shall be available in each category. First-place votes shall be allocated three points, second-place votes two points and third-place votes one point.

22. In the event of a tie on points, the Nova in that category shall be awarded to the nominee with most first-place votes. In the event of a tie on first-place votes, the award shall be made to the nominee with most second-place votes. Only in the case of identical voting patterns shall a formal tie be announced.

23. The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential. A complete breakdown of nominees and points received shall be made available to the subsequent Novacon committee for publication in its next available progress report.

24. The Nova Awards ballot form shall comprise a short introduction to the aims of the award and appropriate footnotes on definitions and eligibility, plus space for the voter to identify themselves and indicate their receipt of at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (see point 14).

25. Further, the ballot form shall list the three categories, "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist"; in each case, space will be allotted for first-, second- and third-place votes.

26. Finally, if he or she wishes, the Administrator shall include a shortlist of known eligible fanzines, making clear this is intended as an *aide memoire* and is in no sense definitive.

27. Once the winners in all three categories have been decided, the ballot forms and any related notes shall be placed into an envelope and sealed, to be retained by the Administrator for at least three calendar months in the event the results are challenged. If no such query is raised during this period, the envelope and its contents shall be destroyed. Should the results be called into question, the envelope – still sealed – shall be handed over to the chair of the relevant Novacon committee for further investigation.

28. The rules shall be posted on the Novacon website and hardcopies made available for a reasonable fee (covering printing and postage) upon request from the Novacon committee.

29. Any amendments to the above rules shall be made by the current Administrator in conjunction with the committee of that year's Novacon.

March 1978, Dave Langford

Updated: September 1983, Dave Langford

Revised & updated: February 1987, Martin Tudor

Extensively revised & updated: November 2002, Steve Green

Further revised: September 2011, Steve Green

Past Nova Awards Winners

1973: Speculation #32, ed. Peter Weston (best fanzine). [At this point, the award was decided by a panel of "worthy fans"; also nominated were Peter Roberts' Egg #6, Arthur Cruttenden's Idiocy Couchant #2, Ian Maule's Maya #5, Ian Williams' Siddhartha #3, Kevin Smith's Sfinx #7, Dave Sutton's Shadow #19 and Lisa Conesa's Zimri #5. The initial judges were Ken Bulmer, Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers and Tony Walsh; Linwood wrote in C #6 that an open vote "would lead to partisan voting, accusations of undue pressure and ballot rigging, and faneds wanting the award might tend to play to the gallery".]

1974: Zimri #6, ed. Lisa Conesa; Big Scab #2, ed. John Brosnan. [This was the only occasion when the panel opted for a tie. The current rules allow a tie only if the voting patterns are identical.]

1975: Maya #8, ed. Rob Jackson. [This was the final year where the award was made to a specific issue of a fanzine.]

1976: Maya, ed. Rob Jackson.

1977: Twll-Ddu, ed. Dave Langford.

1978: Gross Encounters, ed. Alan Dorey.

1979: Seamonsters, ed. Simone Walsh.

1980: One-Off, ed. Dave Bridges.

1981: Tappen, ed. Malcolm Edwards (best fanzine); Chris Atkinson (new award: best fanzine writer); Pete Lyon (new award: best fanzine artist).

1982: Epsilon, ed. Rob Hansen; Chris Atkinson; Rob Hansen. [This was the first occasion one fan received two Novas in the same year.]

1983: A Cool Head, ed. Dave Bridges; Dave Bridges; Margaret Welbank.

1984: Xyster, ed. Dave Wood; Anne Hammill; D West.

1985: Prevert, ed. John Jarrold; Abi Frost; Ros Calverly.

1986: Pink Fluffy Bedsocks, ed. Owen Whiteoak; Owen Whiteoak; Arthur "ATom" Thomson.

1987: Lip, ed. Hazel Ashworth; D West; D West.

1988: Lip, ed. Hazel Ashworth; Michael Ashley; D West.

1989: VSOP, ed. Jan Orys; Simon Polley; Dave Mooring.

1990: FTT*, ed. Joseph Nicholas, Judith Hanna; Dave Langford; Dave Mooring. [*A polite acronym for Fuck The Tories.]

1991: Saliromania, ed. Michael Ashley; Michael Ashley; D West.

1992: Bob?, ed. Ian Sorensen; Michael Ashley, Dave Mooring.

- 1993: Lagoon, ed. Simon Ounsley; Simon Ounsley; Dave Mooring.
- 1994: Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk, ed. Greg Pickersgill; Greg Pickersgill; D West.
- 1995: Attitude, ed. Michael Abbott, John Dallman and Pam Wells; Simon Ounsley; D West. [Intriguingly, Attitude was intended both as a fanzine and a thematic progress report for the eponymous 1997 convention.]
- 1996: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Alison Freebairn; D West. [This year's "best fanzine" began as two separate titles, which merged after their first issues; Waxen Wings & Banana Skins - later contracted to Banana Wings - carried on the numbering and made its debut with #2.]
- 1997: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Mark Plummer; Sue Mason.
- 1998: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Maureen Kincaid Speller; D West.
- 1999: Barmaid, ed. Yvonne Rowse; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.
- 2000: Plokta, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.
- 2001: Head, ed. Doug Bell and Christina Lake; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks.
- 2002: Plokta, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks.
- 2003: Zoo Nation, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.
- 2004: Zoo Nation, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.
- 2005: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott.
- 2006: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.
- 2007: Prolapse, ed. Peter Weston; Mark Plummer; Alison Scott. [Peter Weston was also presented with one of the occasional "best fan" Novas, awarded by the Novacon committee.]
- 2008: Prolapse, ed. Peter Weston; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott.
- 2009: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.
- 2010: Journey Planet, ed. James Bacon, Claire Brialey, James Bacon and Chris Garcia (with guest editor Pete Young); Mark Plummer; Arthur "ATom" Thomson. [Chris Garcia and Pete Young were the first non-UK/Irish residents to win a Nova, ATom the first person to be awarded one posthumously.]

The Committee

Some personal introductions by Eve Harvey

It has been noticed that in previous years our predecessors have been somewhat frivolous in this section. Given the heavy workload and serious demeanour of the roles carried out to make sure that you all enjoy yourselves at the convention, we think it a disgrace not to treat them with honour. There will, therefore, be absolutely no demeaning of these fine, upstanding members of the fannish community. Instead I am going to introduce them as I first encountered them.

Tony Berry – Hotel liaison

It was at Yorcon in 1979 that we first met this rather rotund, young man with his long locks hanging down his back. He was difficult to miss, actually, as he was standing a drink for everyone in the bar at the time. It's amazing how little he has changed over the intervening years.

Alice Lawson - Treasurer

"This is Alice, look after her because this is her first convention; she knows no-one here, nothing about fandom and is so shy." This was the task I was assigned back at Conspiracy –the 1987 Worldcon in Brighton. And see what a good job I did. Novacons, Eastercons and Worldcons have never been the same since our Alice grabbed them by the neck and heartily shook them.

Eve & John Harvey – Publications

I've known Eve from a very early age – and a nicer, more intelligent, beautiful . . . no Eve, you can't write about yourself, I will do it . . . Eve has been active in fandom for more years than she likes to admit . . . no John, that makes me sound old . . . Eve & John's first convention committee was Worldcon in 1979 . . . no John, that's before many of the attendees were even born . . . Oh hell, Eve is Eve and John is John – is that OK?

Steve Lawson – Chairman

I first met Steve at Yorcon 2 in 1981 and soon after that our house became his second home. Only Steve could bring Kendal Mint Cake as a thankyou for putting up with him for so long. Mind you, we nearly came to blows when I arranged for him to lose the crackerjack quiz at Rubicon – well the little know-it-all won every year!

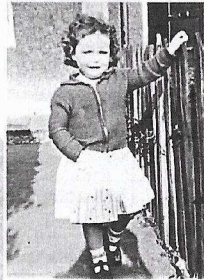
Cat Coast – Secretary

Cat is the secret master of all fandom and there is no way do you want to get on the wrong side of her. After all, she writes the minutes and can change reality at the flick of her pen . . . did I really agree to do THAT? . . . especially if you upset her.

Helena Bowles & Richard Standage – Programme

Although I first met Helena & Richard at a MisFits convention, this was totally inappropriate convention to meet these hidden masters of the universe. They are not MisFits, as illustrated by their ability to manage two children, convention organising AND Tony Berry.

And now for the quiz – see if you can match the photo to the committee member – answers are on the last page.



The History of Novacon

The first Novacon was organised in 1971 as a one-off event by the Aston University Science Fiction Group, but its success led to the convention being adopted by the neighbouring Birmingham SF Group from 1972 onwards. For the first seven years, the choice of guest of honour alternated between pro authors and leading fans.

In the list below, the figure in brackets relates to membership numbers at the time each programme book went to press, rather than the final attendance. (Note: problems with the printing of Novacon 14's programme book meant an entire month's new members were effectively excluded.)

			GoH	Committee
1971	Novacon (Attendance: 144)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	James White	Chair: Vernon Brown Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate
1972	Novacon 2 (144)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Doreen Rogers	Chair: Pauline Dungate Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds
1973	Novacon 3 (146)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Ken Bulmer	Chair: Hazel Reynolds Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman
1974	Novacon 4 (211)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Ken Slater	Chair: Dr Jack Cohen Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds
1975	Novacon 5 (272)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Dan Morgan	Chair: Rog Peton Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton
1976	Novacon 6 (317)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	David Kyle	Chair: Stan Eling Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton

1977	Novacon 7 (278)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	John Brunner	Chair: Stan Eling Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford
1978	Novacon 8 (309)	Holiday Inn, Birmingham	Anne McCaffrey	Chair: Laurence Miller Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright
1979	Novacon 9 (290)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Christopher Priest	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd
1980	Novacon 10 (495)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton
1981	Novacon 11 (362)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Bob Shaw	Chair: Paul Oldroyd Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert
1982	Novacon 12 (373)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Harry Harrison	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert
1983	Novacon 13 (339)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Lisa Tuttle	Chair: Phil Probert Committee: Chris Donaldson, Eunice Pearson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes
1984	Novacon 14 (333)	Grand, Birmingham	Robert Holdstock	Chair: Steve Green Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent
1985	Novacon 15 (340)	De Vere, Coventry	James White & Dave Langford	Chair: Phil Probert Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor
1986	Novacon 16 (257)	De Vere, Coventry	EC Tubb & Chris Evans	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter

1987	Novacon 17 (315)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Iain M Banks	Chair: Bernie Evans Committee: Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole, Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams
1988	Novacon 18 (336)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Garry Kilworth	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor
1989	Novacon 19 (426)	Excelsior, Solihull	Geoff Ryman	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Nick Mills, Pam Wells
1990	Novacon 20 (330)	Excelsior, Solihull	Dr Jack Cohen	Chair: Bernie Evans Committee: Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage
1991	Novacon 21 (200)	Forte Post House*, Solihull	Colin Greenland	Chair: Nick Mills Committee: David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy
1992	Novacon 22 (300)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Storm Constantine	Chair: Helena Bowles Committee: Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage
1993	Novacon 23 (350)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Stephen Baxter	Chair: Carol Morton Committee: Helen a Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage
1994	Novacon 24 (214)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Graham Joyce	Chair: Richard Standage Committee: Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor

1995	Novacon 25 (338)	Chamberlain, Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Bob Shaw Special guest: Iain M Banks	Chair: Tony Morton Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
1996	Novacon 26 (281)	Ibis, Birmingham	David Gemmell	Chair: Carol Morton Committee: Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
1997	Novacon 27 (277)	Abbey, Great Malvern	Peter F Hamilton	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Mike Siddall
1998	Novacon 28 (265)	Britannia, Birmingham	Paul J McAuley	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy
1999	Novacon 29 (239)	Britannia, Birmingham	Ian Stewart	Chair: Carol Morton Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor
2000	Novacon 30 (224)	Britannia, Birmingham	Christopher Priest Special Guest: Rog Peyton Guest artist: David A Hardy	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, David Cooper, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor
2001	Novacon 31 (219)	Quality, Walsall	Gwyneth Jones	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Martin Tudor
2002	Novacon 32 (252)	Quality, Walsall	Ian McDonald	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson

2003	Novacon 33 (203)	Quality, Walsall	Jon Courtenay Grimwood	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson,
2004	Novacon 34 (227)	Quality, Walsall	Ian Watson	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Steve & Ann Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse
2005	Novacon 35 (216)	Quality, Walsall	Alastair Reynolds	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse
2006	Novacon 36 (245)	Quality, Walsall	Ken MacLeod	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Helena Bowles, Vicky Cook, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson
2007	Novacon 37 (227)	Quality, Walsall	Charles Stross	Chair: Steve Green Committee: Kevin Clarke, Vicky Cook, Ann Green, Alice & Steve Lawson
2008	Novacon 38 (206)	Quality, Walsall	Ian R MacLeod	Chair: Helena Bowles Committee: Tony Berry, Alice & Steve Lawson, Richard Standage
2009	Novacon 39 (210)	Park Inn, Nottingham	Justina Robson	Chair: Alice Lawson Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Dave Hicks, Steve Lawson, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
2010	Novacon 40 (262)	Park Inn, Nottingham	Iain M Banks Special Guest: Brian W Aldiss	Chair: Vernon Brown Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Richard Standage

* Note: the Excelsior changed its name to the Forte Post House.

Members

at 6th November 2011

A1	John Meaney	A161	David Cochrane
A2	Yvonne Meaney	A200	Noel Collyer
A28	1/2r	A72	Del Cotter
A23	Michael Abbott	A109	Dave Cox
A6	Brian Aldiss	A137	Richard Crawshaw
A86	Brian Ameringen	A59	Margaret Croad
C88	Meriol Ameringen	A115	Helen Cross
A165	Chris Amies	A167	Serena Culfeather
A139	John Anderson	A120	Nelson Cunningham
A140	Diane Anderson	A111	Julia Daly
A124	Margaret Austin	A18	Michael Davidson
A3	Iain M Banks	A19	Christine Davidson
A147	Geof Banyard	A102	Malcolm Davies
A96	Barbara-Jane	A98	Steve Davies
A134	Doug Bell	A122	Robert Day
A27	Chris Bell	A117	Simon Dearn
A113	Alan Bellingham	A99	Giulia DeCesare
A49	Austin Benson	A180	Theresa Derwin
A10	Tony Berry	A40	Vincent Docherty
A11	Helena Bowles	A93	Paul Dormer
A168	Simon Bradshaw	A207	Fran Dowd
A20	Claire Brialey	A206	John Dowd
A69	Michelle Broadribb	A125	Martin Easterbrook
A70	Tim Broadribb	A121	Cathryn Easthope
A153	Christopher Brooks	A143	John Edwards
A43	Pat Brown	A144	Janet Edwards
A204	Tanya Brown	A57	Sue Edwards
A42	Vernon Brown	A209	Lilian Edwards
A114	Ian Brown	A196	Samantha Fennell
A116	E.D. Buckley	A187	Flick
A52	Steven Cain	A78	Gwen Funnell
C54	Jonathan Cain	A68	Ron Gemmell
J53	Marianne Cain	A164	Marcus Gipps
A33	David Carlile	A145	Angela Goodfellow
A174	Kathleen Clarke	A56	Niall Gordon
A175	George Clarke	A129	Steve Green
A29	David Cluett	A100	Dave Hardy
A30	Joyce Cluett	A7	Harry Harrison
A12	Cat Coast	A183	Peter Harrow

A14 John Harvey
 A15 Eve Harvey
 A89 Susie Haynes
 A71 Julian Headlong
 A84 Dave Hicks
 C85 Penny Hicks
 A155 Mark Hill
 A127 Martin Hoare
 212 Dave Holmes
 A156 Michelle Hurst
 A195 Bogna Hutchinson
 A194 Dave Hutchinson
 A149 Ros Jackson
 A148 Rob Jackson
 A159 Andy Jenkins
 A160 Janet Jenkins
 A128 Al Johnston
 A65 Sue Jones
 A211 Steve Jones
 A158 Kari
 A205 Kate Keen
 A44 Leigh Kennedy
 A210 Lazlo Kenzler
 A47 Tim Kirk
 A135 Christina Lake
 A126 Dave Lally
 A138 Dave Langford
 A9 Alice Lawson
 A8 Steve Lawson
 A132 Gavin Long
 A133 Caroline Loveridge
 A46 Peter Mabey
 A5 Ian R MacLeod
 A118 Tim Maguire
 A119 Clarrie Maguire
 A181 Leo Marshall
 A182 Terry Martin
 A169 Siân Martin
 A95 Rory McLean
 A63 Pat Meara
 A64 Michael Meara
 A192 John Medany

A193 Rita Medany
 A177 Elaine Mein
 A170 Nick Mills
 A34 Chris Morgan
 A35 Pauline Morgan
 A103 Carol Morton
 A104 Tony Morton
 A189 Carrie Mowatt
 A188 Jim Mowatt
 A87 Caroline Mullan
 A130 Chris Murphy
 A157 Phil Nanson
 A190 Stan Nicholls
 A191 Anne Nicholls
 A198 Dave Nichols
 A48 James Odell
 A37 Omega
 A179 Nigel Page
 A146 Colum Paget
 A60 Andrew Patton
 J38 Hal Payne
 A36 Harry Payne
 C39 Jodie Payne
 A62 Mali Perera
 A176 Tony Perkins
 A131 John Peters
 A123 Rog Peyton
 A105 Greg Pickersgill
 A106 Catherine Pickersgill
 A21 Mark Plummer
 A45 Christopher Priest
 A112 Colette Reap
 A92 Thomas Recktenwald
 A150 JFW Richards
 A151 MJS Richards
 A41 Roger Robinson
 A4 Justina Robson
 A74 Tony Rogers
 A141 Steve Rogerson
 A67 Ian Roll
 A178 Marcus Rowland
 A77 Sally ~~Rowse~~

A76	Yvonne Rowse	A82	Linda Ternent
A94	Geoff Ryman	A83	Calvin Ternent
A51	Alison Scott	A97	Markus Thierstein
A26	Jamie Scott	A58	David Thomas
A186	Mike Scott	A90	Neil Tomkinson
A214	Dan Sheppard	A91	Alison Tomkinson
A213	Lucy Sheppard	A66	Dave Tompkins
A108	Gavin Shorrock	J203	Heloise Tudor
A107	Ina Shorrock	A208	Tobes Valois
A16	Harpal Singh	A25	Jim Walker
A154	Mark Slater	A79	Peter Wareham
A172	Pete Smith	A61	Gerry Webb
A184	Robert Smith	A197	Lee Werrett
A173	Nick Smith	A142	Ian Whates
A55	Adrian Snowdon	A152	Laura Wheatly
A101	Kate Solomon	A73	Nik Whitehead
A75	Ian Sorensen	A185	Bridget Wilkinson
A110	Douglas Spencer	A136	Peter Wilkinson
A13	Richard Standage	A166	John Wilson
J202	Magdalen Standage-Bowles	A50	Caro Wilson
J201	Danesh Standage-Bowles	A24	Anne Wilson
A17	Tim Stannard	A163	Sarah Wood
A80	Chris Stocks	A162	Mike Wood
A171	June Strachan	A31	Anne Woodford
A22	Neil Summerfield	A32	Alan Woodford
A81	George Ternent	A199	Diane Young

ADVERTISEMENT



Hi there, all of us here beavering away on the re-launch of Michael Moorcock's New Worlds hope that everyone in Nottingham is having more fun than they can stand this Novacon weekend. Hopefully by the time you're reading this you will be able to subscribe to the very FIRST issue of the legendary magazines tentative first steps into the world of online (and eventually paper) publishing!

The first issue has some, in our opinion, great stories by relatively unknown authors, a ripsnorting, barnstorming article by the one and only Iain Banks (one and only that is apart from the tastefully erotic 70's photographer, Iain Banks) Some reviews of up and coming and newly released movies and such like and filmed events from the fascinating panels ran during the British Libraries science Fiction month. So before you hit the fan bar and forget come on and support a new publication in the SF firmament at www.newworlds.co.uk

Autographs

Picture Quiz Answers

Top Left to Bottom Right

Richard Standage, Cat Coast, Eve Harvey, Tony Berry, John Harvey, Alice Lawson, Helena Bowles, Steve Lawson.

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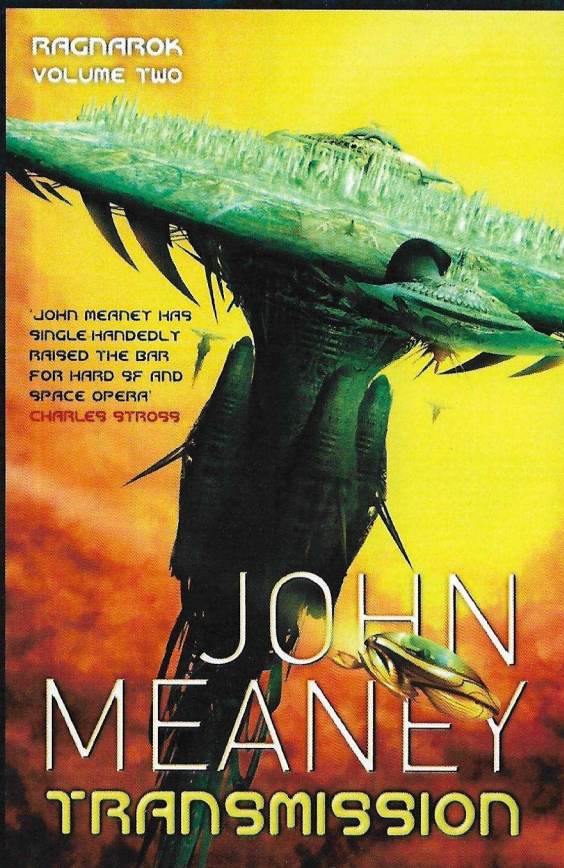


14-18 August 2014

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Photo by Maurice as seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mauricedb>



Gollancz congratulates John Meaney,
Guest of Honour at Novacon 41

Transmission published 19th January —
early copies available on Friday night!

