

NOVACON 7

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

NOVEMBER 4th, 5th, 6th, 1977

ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

CONTEXT: The Galactic Overlord smiled a smile, secure in the knowledge that ere he finished his cocoa, the last rebellious star-clusters would be inexorably ground beneath his iron heel. The far-off rhythm of exploding planets beat a counterpoint to his own dark thoughts, as he savoured the totality of his power and opened the morning mail.

The Overlord blenched; a billion suns flickered as fear corroded every fibre of his being. This innocuous sheet of paper bore the words which spelt ruin! The symbols of ultimate implosion and doom! The dread runes NOVACON PROGRESS REPORT!

CONTINUITY: As if you hadn't guessed, this is Progress Report Two.

TRACKING WITH CLOSEUPS: We are pleased to announce that John Brunner has agreed to be Guest of Honour at Novacon 7. His flamboyant dress has become a familiar sight at SF conventions; his literary achievements should be known to all. For the benefit of the ignorant few, we'll just mention the fine novels "Telepathist" and "The Squares of the City"; more recent work includes such supercharged extrapolations as the innovative "Stand on Zanzibar" (Hugo Award, 1969); "The Jagged Orbit" (BSF Award, 1971); "The Sheep Look Up"; "The Shockwave Rider"...

Meanwhile, despite the press of work, John has sent us many fascinating and unlikely suggestions for films to show at Novacon. We think you'll enjoy meeting him.

THE HAPPENING WORLD:

Hotel Prices--- We have negotiated a rate of £7 per night for single rooms, £12 per night for doubles; these prices include breakfast but not VAT. The full convention facilities of the hotel (the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham) will be available as before. Booking forms are to go out with Progress Report 3 in August or, more likely, September.

Programme--- Many things are on the drawing-board, including the following...

"Twenty Questions" Quiz, with competing teams of amazingly quick-witted fans...

Tom Shippey pours out the vials of his knowledge upon you all...

A demonstration of SF criticism in action: picked scalpelmen slice up a story before your horrified eyes...

Grand Auction: make this item even better by selling your own priceless material, or donating unwanted fanzines, SF, fantasy, progress reports...

Replacing a fancy-dress parade will be a repeat of last year's popular Disco; fans are encouraged to attend this in strange exotic garb. For those who do dress up, there'll be a prize for the best "punny" idea... a classic example perpetrated by one Gray Boak who shall remain nameless was the wearing of a single black glove; he announced himself to be "The Left Hand of Darkness". (Shaking icing-sugar over an Ever Ready battery, one of us once portrayed "Icing The Body Electric". Oh dear.)

Art Prize--- Ken Slater is again awarding a generous £10 for the best piece of artwork, in any medium, illustrating Frank Herbert's "Dune" books. Entries will be displayed at the convention Art Show (which Marsha Jones has again kindly agreed to run) and judged at Novacon itself. The competition is restricted to amateur artists, defined as those who haven't earned more than £250 through their artwork.

Chairman: Stan Eling

Vice-chairman: Martin Hoare

Committee: Liese Hoare, Janice Maule, Ian Maule, Dave Langford

Registrations Received---To May 31st 1977

100 Graham England	127 Michael Cleaver	154 Michel Feron
101 Chris Chivers	128 Adrian Boyer	155 D. West
102	129 Leroy Kettle	156 Bernie Peek
103	130 Simon Joukes	157 Pat Meara
104 David Bursey	131 Peter Thomson	158 Mike Meara
105 Margaret Draper	132 C. Beaumont	159 C. Hargrave
106 Ian Covell	133 Rory Owen McLean	160 Ken Bulmer
107 Paul Wharrier	134 Tim Stanward	161 Pam Bulmer
108 Lawrence Miller	135 Malcolm Thorpe	162 Eric Bentcliffe
109 Peter Close	136 Margaret Thorpe	163 Linda B. Williams
110 Tom Jones	137 Bob Shaw	164 Pandora Birch
111 John Kerr	138 Sadie Shaw	165 Roger Perkins
112 Rob Hansen	139 Peter Nicholls	166 Christine Jennings
113 David Flint	140 William Haydn Thomas	167 David Kemper
114 Michael Hamilton	141 Ken Cowley	168 S.D. Steel
115 F. Symes	142 Roger Peyton	169 David Thomas
116 David Symes	143 Arline Peyton	170 Gray Boak
117 Ian Williams	144 Graham Bullock	171 Meg Boak
118 Roy Mortimer	145 Sandra Bullock	172 Dr B.T. Hatton
119 Daphne Mortimer	146 Brian Hampton	173 Stephen Walker
120 Chris Bursey	147 Tony Rogers	174 Helen Walker
121 Nigel Robson	148 Jan Howard Finder	175 Allan Milne
122 Graham Poole	149 Eddie Jones	176 Krystyna Bula
123 Jim Barker	150 Marsha Jones	177 Richard van der Voort
124 Ian Watson	151 Merf Adamson	178 Paul Vincent
125 Judy Watson	152 John Harvey	179 Gordon Larkin
126 Mike Scantlebury	153 Eve Harvey	180 A.C. Dell

Advertisements in the Programme Booklet

Advertising will be accepted for the Novacon 7 Programme Booklet at the rates given below. Page size A4 for reduction (by 50%) to A5. Halftones £5 extra.

Professional: £10 full page, £6 half page.
Fans: £7 full page, £4 half page.

Final copy date is September 22nd 1977: please send advertising copy before then to Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW. All cheques payable to Novacon 7, please.

Bits & Pieces

NOVACON 7 registration is still £1 supporting, £3 attending (£2 for supporters); send it to Martin and Liese at the address below. Again, all cheques to Novacon 7.

SKYCON, next year's Eastercon, is at the same address; supporting membership is £2 (£1.50 to pre-supporters) and cheques should be made out to SKYCON. Skycon will be held at the Heathrow Hotel on Heathrow Airport.

MORE REGISTRATIONS for Novacon follow: 181 Milton Strain, 182 Cynthia Strain, 183 Jonathan Coleclough, 184 Anne Anderson, 185 Ian Anderson, 186 Mary Brown, 187 David Brown, 188 Chris Walton.

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ALL REPLIES TO

5, ASTON CLOSE
PANGBOURNE
READING
BERKSHIRE