

Prefab Trout News

Issue 2

Banks Signs For Trout

In a shock, overnight, move it was announced that Mr Iain Banks had signed as a special guest star for Prefab Trout. This signing came as a surprise to all the experts but is seen as shrewd move on the part of Prefab Trout who have, in one step, doubled the number of guests available to them - previously they had signed up Angus McAllister.

It is expected that Mr Banks will play a vital role in the line up of the convention and will further strengthen this area of the con. Informed opinion in the city tonight expect to see Banks take an active role after an initial period of settling in.



Chairman of Prefab Trout, Bruce Saville (30), issued the following statement after concluding the deal, "We in Prefab Trout are pleased to announce the signing of Mr Iain Banks as a special guest star at our forthcoming convention. We believe that his expertise will make a significant contribution to the event and we are sure that his presence will be welcomed by all".

While Banks is brilliant and extrovert, it remains to be seen how far his reputation will precede him. Reports of late-night carousing in bars, climbing the outside of hotels, playing silly pranks etc. have tended to upset various managements. However, this behaviour has without doubt enamoured him to the fans. This surely is the prime reason for the Prefab Trout signing. If nothing else it should ensure the activities of Prefab Trout this season will be permanently in the spotlights.

Mr Saville refused to be drawn on details concerning the events leading up to the deal and would not comment on rumours that Mr Banks was threatened with night-time visits by Linda-Claire Toal (convention secretary) except to denounce those making such suggestions. "I feel sick as a parrot that rumour mongers and filth peddlers should dare suggest such a thing. Anyone who knows Mr Banks or Miss Toal would realise there isn't one iota of truth in it". He went on to say that any further suggestions of impropriety on the part of Prefab Trout would result in the matter being put in the hands of the conventions' lawyers.

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**SEPTEMBER
22 - 24**

**SEE BANKS' FIRST GAME
FOR**

**PREFAB
TROUT**

**SWALLOW HOTEL
GLASGOW**

Spotlight On Banks'

Iain is a very difficult writer to categorise as his work is so varied. Much of his work is not SF, indeed to date only two of his six books is instantly recognisable as science fiction. However, his novels are very popular amongst fans and there can be little doubt as to his ability as a writer of any type of novel.

Although well known as a writer, Iain is perhaps best known as Spiderman after his exploits at the Worldcon where it was reported that he abseiled down the side of the Metropole Hotel. Equally reliable (?) sources also had him climbing from balcony to balcony before helping the police with their enquiries. Perhaps if you buy him a drink he will tell you the truth of the matter.

Whatever the true story behind his climbing activities at Conspiracy, most of us can now testify to his Chris Bonnington-like ability having witnessed it at some convention or other in the past few years. For those yet to experience this phenomenon I will only say that the look on the barmaids face at Novacon, when Iain threw rubbish down from the ledge he was standing on, is unforgettable.

Indeed it was at the end of Novacon 17 that, those of us still present, saw the same Mr Banks buy champagne for the remaining fans. The fans then returned the compliment only to see Iain attempt to drink the bottle down in one go!

Hopefully this is not the last time this amazing feat will be attempted.

At this point I should perhaps say something more about Iains writing. But then perhaps not as the best judge is yourself. Pop along to your nearest bookseller and bring a smile to Mr Banks face by buying lots and lots of his books. Then you will be sufficiently well versed in his books that you can write about him for the Programme Book for us.

Then there are Iains relatives - namely, Barclay Banks, Lloyd and Uncle Nat and of course there is Iain M. Banks, another talented writer. Indistinguishable from his twin, Iain Banks, Iain M. Banks chiefly writes SF whereas Iain Banks writes mainstream fiction.

There is some doubt as to whether Iain Banks and Iain M. Banks are twins or are the same person - they have never been seen in company together. If they are twins then we have the problem of which is the climber, or are both equally talented in this area?

Seriously, no matter what else you do at the convention talk to either Mr Banks and discover what an interesting character he is.

MILLENNIUM

How do you plan to celebrate the end of the century?

Why not join us and see 2000 in at a convention?

An international convention committee aims to see the future in by holding a convention between 29 December 1999 and 2 January 2000.

Given that there are still a few years to go, a final decision on location won't be made till the mid 90's, but it will be held in Northern Europe with a preference for a Benelux country or the UK.

We aim to make this convention so much fun that it will be voted the best of the century (Until at least 12.05 am on 1 January 2000). A gigantic party, full of Europe's New Year's Eve and New Year's Day festivities and traditions, given an extra boost by the end of the century and the millennium.

Programme items will include:-
best costume of the century
bidding sessions for the next Millennium and Century cons
"First Foot" of the century

and there will be free "black bun and shortie" for all (ask a Scotsman for a translation).

As the convention is so far in the future we have decided to adopt a new way of paying for membership. Each year you will pay £2 and this will be deducted from the eventual cost of your membership. So by paying in this way you spread the cost of your membership and the earlier you join the greater the discount on the final cost of your membership. The rate is £2 (cheque / cash / IMO) in respect of one years membership of Millennium. (all cheques payable to "Millennium") and memberships should be sent to:

Malcolm M Reid, 55 Cedarwood Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 5LP

Programme

In PR1 we filled 1½ pages with full details of programme ideas. Surprise, surprise, none have survived to PR2. Instead we have the following items:

Net Book Agreement

Given the vast quantity of books that all SF fans seem to buy this must be a subject close to all our hearts. For those of you who are unaware of the NBA, this is the only legal price fixing agreement and recently several booksellers have stated their intention to challenge it in the courts.

Will prices go up, (Boo!) or down (Yeh!)? Will there be more books or less? Will there be more specialist book shops or even larger chains?

We aim to hold a discussion on the NBA and all its ramifications. If you feel that you have something to say on this issue or just want to listen to the arguments, then come along.

Co-operative Games

Had a long harrowing journey?

What you need are some nice, physical jerks and we don't mean your first pint in the bar!

To get you into a party mood and to loosen those tired muscles there will be a co-operative games session on Friday night. These games will require PHYSICAL participation and are sure to be lots of fun (honestly).

We must thank Helen Wake for sponsoring this event.

Architectural Tour of Glasgow

It is hoped that, subject to sufficient interest, a tour of Glasgows more unusual and architecturally significant buildings can be organised. The tour will take place on Saturday afternoon and your guide will be Bruce. If you are interested it would be helpful if you could contact us before the convention. You should also bring some comfortable shoes as this tour is on foot!

Truth or Dare

Dare we tell you the truth about this event?

As you might guess this is that old game where the contestants must tell the truth about something they would rather remain silent on or accept a dare. No matter how often this game is played it is always interesting and revealing - at least for the audience as they watch the contestants squirm.

Cartoons Quiz

Here we have another of Bruces off the wall quizzes. This time its 'A Question Of Cartoons'. So if you know in which cartoon Tom sang "Is you is or is you ain't my baby?" then this is the quiz for you.

Anybody wishing to participate should contact Bruce at the convention address.

The Seven Wisdoms of Fandom

This panel will tell you about some of their most interesting / embarrassing / unfortunate incidents since joining fandom.

Will the muesli story be told, or the one about the baked beans, or what about room 107?

As this could result in some of the most unusual anecdotes we will be offering free legal advice to all those taking part or who are slandered by the panel.

Films

As we stated in PR1 we have adopted a policy of quality not quantity. Our aim is to show one classic film, one new film which you perhaps have not had a chance to see, some very old Georges Melles films and some carefully chosen cartoons.

Project X

Although this film suffers from poor characterisation it a highly imaginative film and one which deserves to be seen more often. The story centers around a secret agent who is given the identity of a bank robber from the past and whose dreams are then materialised in an effort to help regain his memory. This film is well worth watching.

Wizard of Speed and Time

Taking the short film as its basis, the full length version is about the making of the short movie. A gentle comedy that dramatically shows how a multi-million dollar budget can produce amazing special effects.

Cartoons

Rather than the usual Bugs Bunny and Tom & Jerry cartoons which have been shown countless times on the television we intend to have some of the rarer Warner Bros, Disney and MGM cartoons.

•Porky's Duck Hunt - where he is plagued by a certain daft duck (as yet unknown to cinema audiences)

•Porky's Hotel Room - learn how not to pay your hotel room bill

and from Disney we have Der Fuhrer's Face and Steamboat Willy.

At this time we have yet to receive confirmation of our film bookings from the distributors and therefore these films may have to change.

The above items are only a taste of what we will bring you at the convention and, of course, carry the usual disclaimer that the management reserve the right to alter the contents of the convention from those stated above - if this proves necessary.

Never the less you can rest assured that whatever events find their way into the programme they will be entertaining / boring / revealing / illuminating / a massive failure...

Why the Eastercon for 1992 should be here.

- A real, luxury hotel (rivalling Gleneagles itself)
- Some of the best coastal scenery anywhere
- Minutes away from an international airport (and we aren't even in a city)
- One of the best chefs in Britain
- Unlimited car parking space
- The biggest programme area you ever did see

BUT

- Hotel has a limited number of bedspaces (220) but there are lots and lots of overflow spaces
- Single room prices even higher than those of Speculation. (If you have to ask....)
- There are less than 200 restaurants within one mile of the hotel

Despite the small minus points, this site is so, so relaxing. It's so good, we are keeping the location a secret (as well as the conventions name) till later. However the hotel is in Scotland (but not in Glasgow)

For further details contact:

Dave Ellis, Mount Royal (Top Flat Left), 26a Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, KA21

SEA

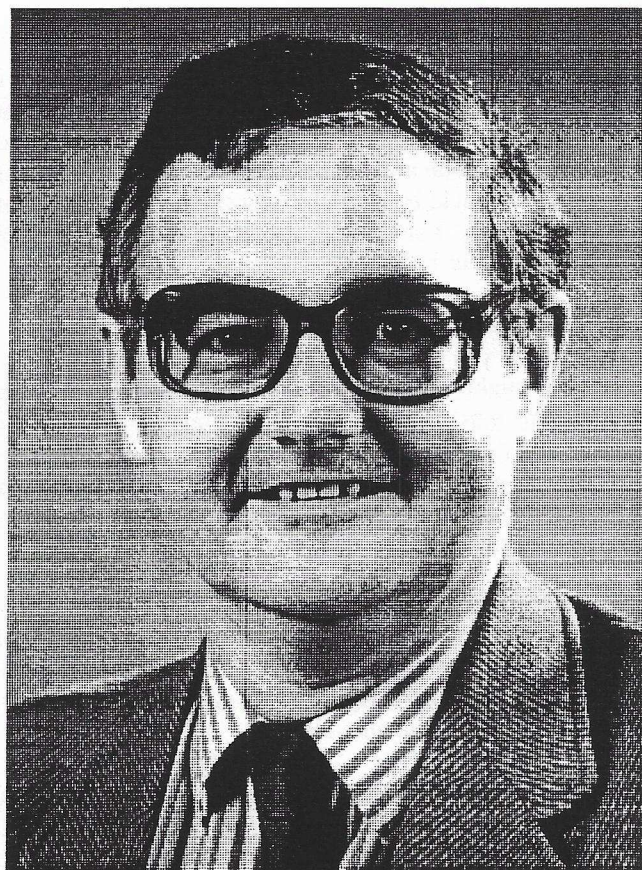
Presupporting Green Fees 10p

GOH Angus McAllister

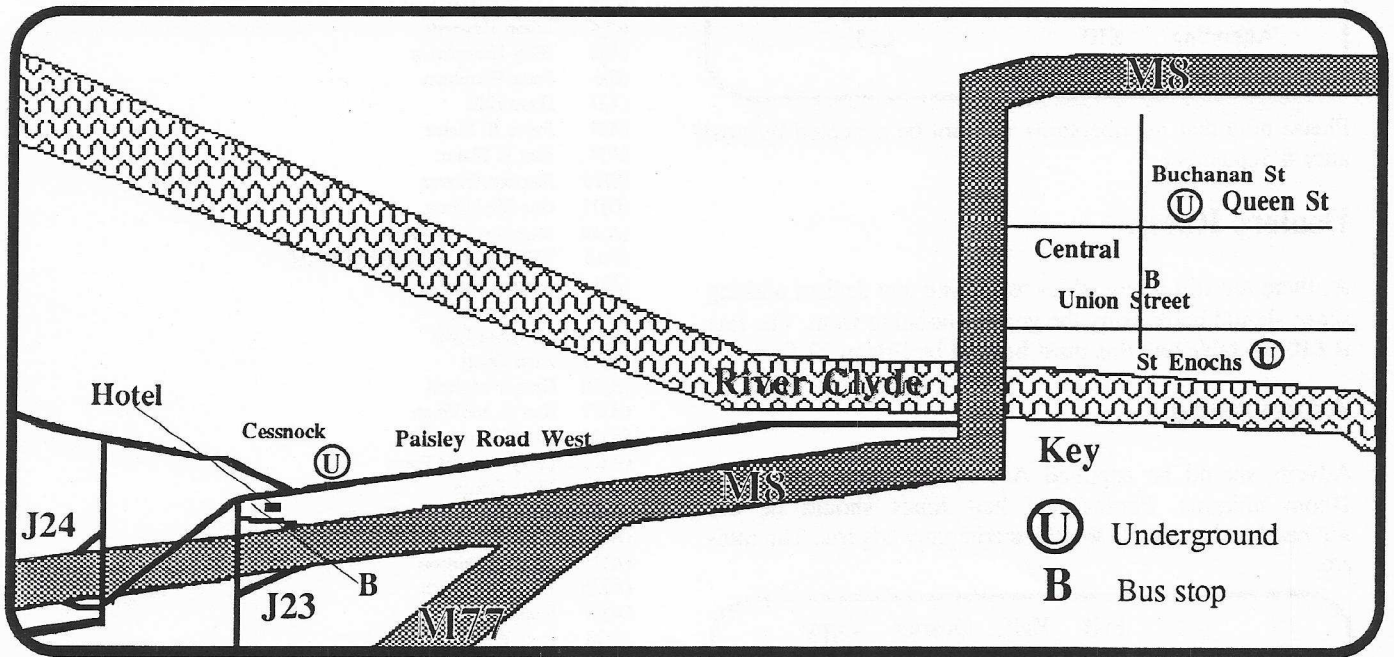
Since first writing about Gus in PR1 back in October of last year there have been several developments in his literary career. As his first novel, "The Krugg Syndrome", is presently in the hands of at least one US publisher, for consideration, it is likely that US audiences are (hopefully) soon to be treated to his writing talents. The second major development is the inclusion of some of his shorter work in an anthology of writings by Scottish authors. This is due to be published in the autumn and will see his work gathered together with work from other well known Scottish SF writers such as his friend Alastair Grey.

Unfortunately, it now seems that his second novel will not be published before the convention as we originally suggested in the last PR. Although, Gus has promised to tell us more about this novel and the delays in its publication at the convention. Hopefully this situation will change shortly and we will again be treated to his own individual style of writing.

The committee of Prefab Trout look forward, as I am sure the convention members do to hearing Gus at the convention. Not only to hear of his next novel but also to meet the latest Scottish SF writer to have his work published. And ask Gus for some of his anecdotes when you are in the bar with him. You will split your sides laughing.



Travel Instructions



By Car

If travelling from the north, south or east you should leave the motorway at junction 23 ("B768 Govan") and turn right at the traffic lights at the end of the sliproad. Continue through the next set of lights (these lead back onto the M8) and turn right into Paisley Road West at the following set. The hotel is a further $\frac{1}{3}$ mile on the right hand side.

If travelling from the west you should leave the M8 at junction 24 ("A77 Kilmarnock") and turn right at the lights. You should then continue through the next set of lights (these lead back onto the M8) and turn left at the following set. Continue for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the next lights which you should go straight through. The hotel is a further $\frac{1}{3}$ mile on the right hand side of the road.

By Rail

Travelling by train you will arrive at either Glasgow Central or Queen Street Station. At both stations you have the following three options: bus, taxi or underground.

Underground

Queen Street station is served by Buchanan Street underground and this can be reached by means of a link corridor on the right of the station. Cessnock underground station is the sixth stop and there is a flat fare of 40p for the underground.

The nearest underground station to Central is St Enoch's (a four minute walk) and this is reached by leaving via the exit on the right of the station, next to Casey Jones and turning right into Union Street. At the traffic lights (opposite "Boots") you should cross over to "Pizza Hut" and walk

along Arygle Street for 150 yards until you see the underground station on your right. Cessnock is the fifth stop on the underground.

At Cessnock underground you should turn right into Paisley Road West and walk to the pedestrian crossing. After crossing continue in the same direction as previously until you reach the hotel. The walk from underground to hotel takes about 5 minutes.

Taxi

The taxi rank at Queen Street is on the left of the station, as you walk down the platform, and at Central it is at the exit at the end of the platform (between John Menzies and the ticket counter). In either case the fare is about £3.50.

Bus

If arriving at Queen Street you should first go to Central Station either by using the connecting bus service or by walking (leave by the exit at the end of the platform and continue south for two blocks before turning right at the Halifax Building Society, into Royal Exchange Square. Continue for four blocks and turn left into Union Street.) The bus stops are stretched along this street.

To reach the bus stops from Central Station leave via the exit on the right of the station (next to Casey Jones) and cross to bus stops on the other side of Union Street.

The following buses go to the hotel: 4, 9, 9A, 54, 54A, 54B (all of these buses are orange and black and cost 65p (exact fare - no change given). You should ask the driver to let you off on Paisley Road West, at the top of Copeland Road, 20 yards beyond the Swallow Hotel.

Membership Rates

Our membership rates are:

	to 21 Sept	on the door
Attending	£10	£13
Supporting	£5	

Please note that memberships will not be accepted by post after 8 September.

Dealers Room

As there are still a few tables remaining any dealers wishing space should book using the general booking form. The rate is £10 per table and this must be paid by Friday 22 Sept.

Advertising

Adverts should be supplied A4, camera ready and allow 10mm margins. Photos and half tones should be dot screened and payment should accompany adverts. The rates are:

	Full page	Half page	Quarter page	Copy deadline
Programme book	£20	£10	£5	31 July

Room Bookings

Please book your room with the enclosed general purpose booking form and return it to the usual convention address. As the hotel is of a modern design with few single rooms a premium is charged for these rooms. In view of this we are offering to find people to share with and those wishing to take advantage of this should indicate this, as well as giving other relevant details eg. non smoker.

The hotel requires that all bookings are accompanied by a deposit of £5 per person and this should also be sent to us (cheques payable to 'Prefab Trout' - it helps us with the administration).

As we stated in PR1 the hotel is not large and there will be no overflow accommodation. In view of this we would advise that you book your room immediately.

The rates are:

Single room	£28
Twin room	£21

Both rates are per person per night and are inclusive of a full Scottish breakfast and VAT.

Weapons Policy

The committee believe that the carrying of weapons at a convention has little to do with SF and can represent a danger to other people. We therefore request that no weapons are carried at the convention.

Membership List

(as at 11 May 1989)

- (C)1 Bruce Saville
- (C)2 Malcolm M. Reid
- (C)3 Linda-Claire Toal
- (C)4 Lilian Edwards
- (A)5 Billy Humphries
- (S)6 Peter Wareham
- (A)7 Dave Ellis
- (A)8 Joyce E. Slater
- (A)9 Ken F. Slater
- (S)10 Stephen Glover
- (G)11 Gus McAllister
- (A)12 Malcolm McArthur
- (S)13 THE OFFWHITE LENS MAN
- (A)14 Alastair Reid
- (S)15 Euan Lees
- (A)16 Christina Lake
- (A)17 Alan Gunn
- (A)18 Gregor McNeil
- (A)19 Kev P. McVeigh
- (A)20 Daniel Livingstone
- (A)21 Larry van der Putte
- (A)22 Mike Gould
- (A)23 Angus H.C. Scott-Brown
- (A)24 Kay Allan
- (A)25 Roger Robinson
- (A)26 Tim Illingworth
- (A)27 Stephen Davies
- (S)28 Pam Wells
- (A)29 Alan Gilbert
- (A)30 David T. Cooper
- (A)31 THE MAGICIAN
- (A)32 Nick Mills
- (A)33 Paul Dormer
- (S)34 Bernie Evans
- (A)35 David Bruce
- (S)36 Caroline Mullan
- (G)37 EL BONKO (Iain Banks)
- (S)38 ISAAC ASIMOV (fake)
- (A)39 Paul Paolini
- (A)40 Craig Mamock
- (A)41 Howard Singerman
- (A)42 Claire Singerman
- (A)43 J. Mumin
- (A)44 Andrew Ramage
- (A)45 Deborah Ramage
- (S)46 Wilf James
- (A)47 HIS MAJESTY ROLAND WARD...
- (A)48 Bill Longley
- (A)49 Helen Wake
- (A)50 David Fergusson
- (A)51 Jamie MacRae
- (A)52 Rik Grier
- (A)53 John Dalman

Convention Address

The address for all correspondence is:

PREFAB TROUT
c/o Malcolm M. Reid
55 Cedarwood Avenue
Newton Mearns
Glasgow
G77 5LP

All cheques should be made payable to
'Prefab Trout'