

NEWCASTLE in 74

Flyer no. 2

Further details of the North East Science Fiction Fan Group's bid for the 1974 Eastercon.

Our present and hopefully final choice of venue is the County Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle. This is a large 3-star hotel immediately opposite the Central Station with the kind of informal atmosphere many publicans would do well to learn from. To go with the atmosphere, however, a hotel must have the facilities, which the County certainly has. The convention hall, the Prince of Wales Suite, seats 200 and has stage and screen for erection when needed, and next door on the same floor are the large huckster room, art room, BSFA hospitality room and upstairs bar, together with the Regency banqueting suite.

The hotel has 99 bedrooms, all with TV and radio and 46 with private bathrooms. Overflow is no problem; the County's twin sister hotel the Royal Turk's Head (3-star, 103 rooms) is only 5 minutes' walk away and will take con members at the same rates as the County, whose weekend convention rates are £2.20 per night + VAT for B&B in a single room; £2.90 with private bathroom. No, those aren't misprints; they simply represent superb value. (Financial considerations ended our dealings with the hotel mentioned in the first flyer.)

For some the most important thing about the County will be that it serves superb beer, as is only to be expected in a major Scottish and Newcastle Breweries hotel. The beer is beautifully looked after and even in the waitress-service downstairs lounge Tartan and Exhibition are only 14p a pint. Apart from the lounge and the upstairs bar there are the large - around 80 seats - modern Grill Bar and the men-only Nancy's Bar. For those who don't wish to eat in the hotel there are excellent inexpensive restaurants all around the centre of Newcastle - Indian, Bengali, Italian, Old English, Mod English, and of course Chinese.

The road journey to Newcastle, though long for many, is extremely easy once you are on the A1 or M1; however, for those who want to go by rail, we intend to make Newcastle's already excellent rail service even easier by arranging block bookings at reduced fares for those who want them. Hopefully these will be from London, Birmingham, Manchester and anywhere else ten fans