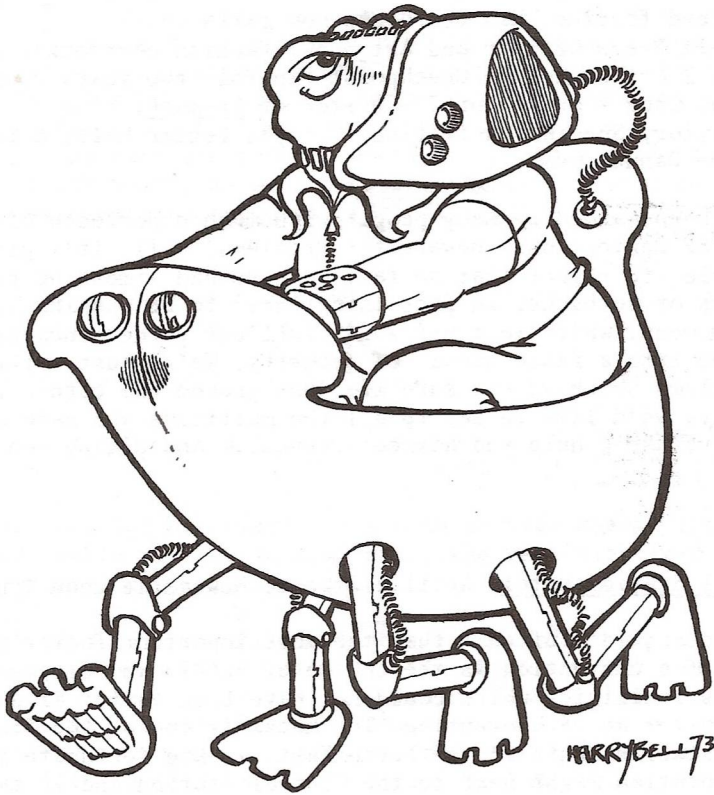


# Tynecon '74

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Progress Report 1

June  
1973

Tynecon '74 is the 25th annual British Easter Science Fiction Convention, organised by the North East's Gannet group. The Tynecon '74 Committee are:

Ian Maule, Chairman. Editor of the well known fanzine Maya.

Is addicted to turning duplicator handles.

Ian Williams, Secretary. Past Maya editor; voted no. 1 fanwriter in the Checkpoint Fan Poll this year. Has just finished the first draft of an SF novel. Has a beard which is a neofan.

Robert Jackson, Treasurer. has written amateur SF for Sfinx, the Cxford ficzine. His beard has now gafiated.

Harry Bell, Press Officer and Art Show. Fannish cartoonist voted No. 1 artist in the Checkpoint Fan Poll two years running now. Once - and future? - editor of Grimwab.

Irene Taylor, Special Facilities. Harry's better half; a long time Gannet member.

We have been warned by many people with much experience of organising SF Conventions: Beware the Problems! Well, it's pleasant to be able to report that so far, we have had almost no real headaches or setbacks. In fact things seem to be shaping up well at the moment, which we trust won't lull our rather inexperienced committee into a false sense of security. We're just waiting for the problems which we are sure lie just around the corner... Seriously, we'd like to say to all the multitude who have already offered valuable help and advice: Thanks... and please don't stop!

VENUE

The Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

It has been said - often - that the most important factor in the success of a convention is the choice of hotel. We believe our venue has facilities which could not have been better if designed specially for an SF convention. The hotel is one of the finest luxury establishments in the North East; we are fortunate indeed in its location right next to the Central Station and in the helpful attitude of its management. I hope those of you who saw our first Newcastle in '74 flyer will forgive a repetition of the following details about the hotel.

It is a four star 147-bedroom hotel with 214 beds in total; 78 of the rooms have private baths, a few more have private showers, and all have TV if you (God forbid) get bored. All the hotel's convention rooms except the main dining room are on

the first floor next to each other, so you should have no trouble running all over the hotel looking for people. The convention hall itself seats 250 people in comfort; for this we have arrangements for PA, taping, mikes (many), and projection equipment of professional quality in the pipeline. Immediately opposite the convention hall across the corridor are the spacious rooms we will be using as bar and lounge; there are also bars downstairs. The hotel are well aware of our normal requirements as to bar opening times and are prepared to cope. Here I'd like to repeat verbatim a sentence from Ian Williams's first draft: "The price of beer is cheaper than gurgle and is the best and strongest the North can brew." Which is saying something. Exhibition, S&N's special draught, is 17p a pint in the Royal Station's Black Barrel bar. Unlike Newcastle Brown, Ex. tastes fairly innocuous, but it sneaks up on you and... an'... shplow! Seriously, we warn you inexperienced Southerners that you won't need to drink nearly as much up here. (Sorry; we seem to keep harping on about the price of beer. It's not all we think about, honest!)

We are pleased to announce reduced rates for rooms at the hotel, which are as follows:

£4.00	per night,	single room,	no private bath
£4.50	"	"	with "
£7.50	"	dbl/twin room,	no "
£8.50	"	"	with "

These are bed and breakfast rates with service charge included; they are liable to VAT. In most cases the reduction from the hotel's normal rates is substantial.

Full English breakfast will be served Buffet style in the Main Dining Room. Instead of providing expensive and rather ill-attended full lunches in the Main Dining Room, the hotel have agreed to open Oscar's Viking Restaurant, which is on the lower ground floor of the hotel and seats 80, specially for convention members. This would normally be closed to the public over Easter. A variety of hot and cold meals is available there in the range 50p-£1, including a groaning help-yourself cold table at 8lp. (The nose of one member of the concom decided while in the restaurant that it wanted to have dinner and that looking round the rest of the hotel could go hang; its owner dragged it out under protest.) We are sure that this will be more suited to the needs of convention members than eating facilities provided in past hotels.

THE CITY

Newcastle, despite the ravages of developers who have torn up rather more of the city than is good for their public relations, is still a city with superb Victorian facades in the shopping streets, and the ancient city wall, cathedral and castle all near the Royal Station. Eating places abound; particularly recommended are the profusion of fine Bengali and Chinese restaurants especially those in the city centre near the hotel. Of course if you want pie and chips that will be around somewhere too.

GUEST OF HONOUR

This being a British SF Convention a British writer is our Guest of Honour. In recent years there has been a trend towards honouring visiting writers, which is fine in itself but has led to a neglect of the greatest talents on our own shores.

Our Guest of Honour this year has been in SF fandom for dot years and has written extensively and brilliantly for fanzines, notably co-authorship of the classic fannish novel The Enchanted Duplicator, recently reprinted in Amazing. In recent years he has blossomed as an SF writer, claiming attention with his superb Nebula-nominated short story Light of Other Days and more recently showing his talent in novels such as "The Two Timers", "Night Walk", "The Palace of Eternity", "One Million Tomorrows", "Other Days, Other Eyes", and most recently his collection "Tomorrow Lies in Ambush". He also has a high reputation as a witty and perceptive speaker.

Both as a professional writer and as an SF fan we are delighted to welcome as our Guest of Honour:

Bob Shaw

FAN GUEST OF HONOUR

Editor of the internationally respected serious fanzine Speculation which was nominated for a Hugo in 1970; organiser of Eastercon-22 (Worcester '71) which was probably the finest convention ever held in this country; founder of the huge Birmingham SF Group; organiser of the Speculation Conferences; intelligent, witty and sociable in person; what can one say

about our Fan Guest of Honour? He has contributed more in recent years to SF fandom than anyone and is long overdue for this honour:

Peter Weston

PROGRAMME

Naturally it's a little early to announce many of the programme items because they're either in the pipeline or simply not arranged, and if they were there would always be the chance that something might happen to alter it. Nevertheless we can say a few things. What we'd like to do in the programme is to answer those questions in SF which seem to be worth asking and have not been given a proper airing yet; hopefully we'll find a few science-fictional sacred cows worth slaughtering (Iconoclasticon?) (No, I didn't mean authors.) Any suggestions will be welcomed; naturally we're by no means short on ideas but if something is bugging you please let us know - we're quite willing to pinch someone else's brilliance! A few items we can mention now, though:

Poetry reading: an informal event lasting about one to two hours on the Friday night. Those interested in reading their poems should contact the charming and lovable editrix of Zimri:

Lisa Conesa, 54 Manley Rd., Whalley Range, Manchester M16 8HP,

who is organising it and is hoping to bring the poems together in a publication of some sort.

Model competition: we are making a definite announcement of this early in the hope of allowing you more time to plan and build your models, and in the hope of encouraging more people to enter. The competition will be titled "Build a Bem" - this or other beautiful creature for preference, though any science-fictional subject is acceptable. If you would like to enter, please write to:

Ken Mardle, 44 Charles Bradlaugh House, Haynes Close, Tottenham, London N17 0RD

with a description of your proposed model; he can help with practical advice on construction.

Auctions will be held as in previous years; as always we would be most appreciative of any material you may wish to donate. More details in future PRs.

Films: As I mentioned above, we hope to have projection, screen and sound equipment of professional quality; we will do our best to justify this equipment by showing as many science-fiction films as possible. We will not be showing films or organising any other programme items with a scheduled finishing time after 1 am - to allow, as Ian's first draft put it, "several hours' socialising in the bar without distractions" - and just possibly to allow you to get to sleep without missing anything official.

THE BANQUET

The Banquet this year will see some changes; following complaints about overlong speeches and prizegivings we have decided to shorten the Banquet itself, and some of the ceremonies which would have taken place there will be in the Convention Hall instead, probably at an earlier time during the convention. The meal itself will follow the pattern of previous years; the Royal Station Hotel has a genuinely superior reputation for providing banquets quickly and of high quality. If you wish to present a prize or award please get in touch with us about programming.

CHILDREN - NURSING CARE

Several people with children who bring them to conventions mention the problem of keeping them amused while the parents attend the programme. We are considering hiring one or two child minders to solve this. The hotel can put aside a room for this purpose; the problem is one of finance so we'd appreciate your letting us know whether you'd like this service and how much you'd be willing to pay per child per day. There will be a questionnaire on this and other subjects in a future Progress Report.

CONVENTION BOOKLET

As this is the 25th Eastercon the convention booklet would be worth keeping for the numerical landmark alone, but we hope to produce a booklet suitable for the occasion. In the past, these have tended to contain relatively insubstantial reading matter

(though there have been honourable exceptions); we aim this year to produce a booklet with enough articles to make it worth reading as a magazine in its own right as well as preserving as a souvenir.

If you would like to advertise in the convention booklet, rates are as follows: £5 per page, fan advertising half price; half and quarter pages pro rata. Colour and half tone by special arrangement. The booklet will be A5, photolitho; please send copy A4 for 50% reduction, with 1" margins. We would appreciate copy as soon as possible; deadline Jan. 31st 1974. Advertising is also warmly welcomed for future Progress Reports; copy for these A5 with 1/2" margins, rates £2.50 per page.

SUNDERLAND SF FESTIVAL

Enclosed with this Progress Report is a leaflet about "Beyond This Horizon", a five week SF and Space Exploration Festival to be held in Sunderland this autumn. Chris Carrell, the organiser, would be pleased to hear from anyone, especially if you feel you can help, or even better can come up for one of the weekends of the Festival. (Drop in on us too!) Chris is well aware of Novacon; he has arranged for the factual Space Exploration weekend to coincide with it, so as not to provide us with embarras de richesse of SF events.

CONVENTION MEMBERS TO JUNE 1ST

- |                       |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Cas Skelton         | 19 Vernon Brown      | 37 Gray Boak           |
| 2 Paul Skelton        | 20 Michel Feron (B)  | 38 Meg Palmer          |
| 3 Darroll Pardoe      | 21 Pauline Dungate   | 39 Tom Schluck (D)     |
| 4 Rosemary Pardoe     | 22 Andrew Stephenson | 40 Eva Schluck (D)     |
| 5 J.Michael Rosenblum | 23 Sam Long (USA)    | 41 Jill Adams          |
| 6 Betty Rosenblum     | 24 Hazel Reynolds    | 42 Keith Walker        |
| 7 Howard Rosenblum    | 25 Chris Morgan      | 43 James O'Meara (IRE) |
| 8 Diane Barrow        | 26 Bernard Peek      | 44 Chris Priest        |
| 9 Peter Barrow        | 27 Jose Bernhard (B) | 45 Ken Bulmer          |
| 10 Peter Wilde        | 28 Tony Rogers       | 46 Brian Hampton       |
| 11 Jeffrey Hacker     | 29 John Piggott      | 47 Lars Strandberg (S) |
| 12 Peter Mabey        | 30 Chuck Partington  | 48 Hartley Patterson   |
| 13 Gerry Webb         | 31 Lynda Partington  | 49 Peter Presford      |
| 14 Dave Kyle (USA)    | 32 Graham Poole      | 50 Don Malcolm         |
| 15 Ruth Kyle (USA)    | 33 Jim Marshall++    | 51 Rita Malcolm        |
| 16 A.C. Kyle (USA)    | 34 Arthur Cruttenden | 52 Rod Milner          |
| 17 Kerry Kyle (USA)   | 35 Keith Freeman     | 53 Bill Burns          |
| 18 Dave Rowe          | 36 Wendy Freeman     | 54 Mary Burns          |

55 Simone Walsh	78 James White	100 Jack Cohen
56 John Steward	79 Henry P. Pijohn	101 Julia Stone
57 Rob Holdstock	80 Matthew Schneck (USA)	102 Malcolm Edwards
58 Jeremy Elsmore	81 Holger Muller (D)	103 Christine Edwards
59 Ted Ball	82 Ken Cheslin	104 Dave Bendelow
60 Dave Gibson	83 Jean Cheslin	105 Doreen Bendelow
61 Jhim Linwood	84 Greg Pickersgill	106 Jim W. Marshall++
62 Stan Eling	85 Lisa Conesa	107 Judith Ahl
63 Helen Eling	86 John G. Cole	108 Brian Robinson
64 Eddie Jones	87 Phil Rogers	109 Pete Emery
65 Marsha Jones	88 Doreen Rogers	110 Terry Jeeves
66 Norman Weedall	89 Al de Bettencourt	111 Peter Shanks
67 John R. Campbell	(USA)	112 Ian Maule
68 Jenny Campbell	90 Don Rogers (USA)	113 Ian Williams
69 Dave Sutton	91 Tony Walshe	114 Robert Jackson
70 Sandra Sutton	92 Simon Joukes (B)	115 Harry Bell
71 Ray Bradbury	93 Norman Shorrocks	116 Irene Taylor
72 Mike Meara	94 Ina Shorrocks	117 Alan Burns
73 Pat Meara	95 Russ Belshaw	118 Leslie Atkinson
74 Archie Mercer	96 Brian W. Aldiss	119 Kevin Turnbull
75 Vic Hallett	97 Fred Hemmings	131 Roger Peyton
76 Elaine Wash	98 John Jarrold	132 Arline Peyton
77 Dave Chopping	99 S.D. Steel	137 Jan Howard FINDER (Can)

++ To confuse matters, these two are both North Easterners, and both have been or will be involved in helping us with the Convention! No. 33 is Ken McIntyre's old mate and the long-time con goer, while no. 106 is the bearded Gannet comics fan and artist. 122 members by June 1st - is this a record?

Supporting membership has cost you 50p (our PRs are going out to members of the convention only); this entitles you to all PRs and the con booklet. Attending membership is a further £1.50, of which we would appreciate payment in advance, though it will be payable at the door. Full membership thus is a total of £2.00. All monies payable to Tynecon '74, please. If you make them payable to me, they may need to travel out to Colombo (Sri Lanka) and back to be endorsed, an expensive and dangerous postal trip! I will be there from June 30th till September 28th, in fact. All registration fees, registration correspondence etc. to:

Ian Maule, Tynecon '74, 13 Weardale Ave., Forest Hall,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 0HX, U.K.

Most of the blame for the writing and typing of this Progress Report can be heaped upon Robert Jackson.