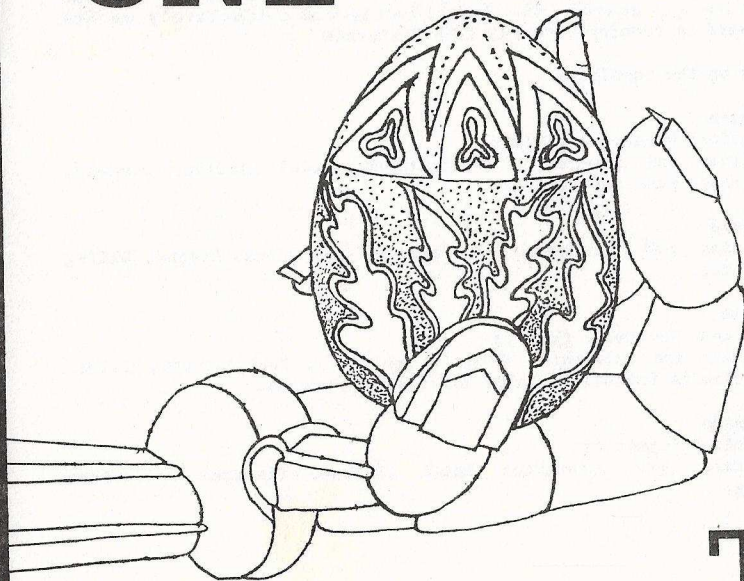


BECCON

87

A Bid to hold the 1987
EASTER CONVENTION
at the METROPOLE
BIRMINGHAM NEC

REPORT ONE



THE

EASTERCON

Hello. Welcome to the BECCON committee's first Bid Report for BECCON '87, the 1987 Eastercon. We would like to tell you who we are, where we have come from, what we would like to do, and where we would like to do it, so first:

The Convention Committee

The BECCON committee originated at a science fiction class started by Philip Strick in 1969. People attending soon began to make a habit of finishing in a nearby pub, and then started meeting in the pub on the Fridays when the class did not run, and thus became a year-round meeting. The class is now being run, at the City Literary Institute in London, by Lisa Tuttle.

In 1979, in traditional fannish manner, over a pint, the group were persuaded that it would be a good idea for them to run a convention. The convention was eventually held in July 1981 in the Basildon Essex Centre Hotel, thus BECCON. Prompted by threats of dire retribution if this process was not repeated, the BECCONS of 1983 and 1985 followed - at some point some ~~man~~ one suggested that we try for the Eastercon...

The committee as a whole is known for its beards and glasses (and the hand-held sort too!) as well as, that after six years of organizing conventions it has remained virtually unchanged. We are still very enthusiastic and interested in all aspects of con-running, with particular emphasis on participation in other conventions' programme items (so that they can be properly researched!). Individually committee members have been attending conventions since the first Novacon in 1971 and worked on other convention committees as disparate in size as Shoestringcons and Season '84. Individually and collectively we are looking forward to running a really GOOD Eastercon.

Some details on the committee...

Brian Ameringen

First convention: Novacon 2 (1972);

Responsibilities and interests: Publications, Hotel Liaison, Finance, Auction, Quizzes, Puns and Alcohol.

Simon Beresford

Responsibilities and interests: Membership, Operations, Creche, Skiing and Hill-Walking.

Jonathan Cowie

First convention: Novacon 7 (1977);

Responsibilities and interests: Press & Publicity, Publications, Films, Serious Speculative Scientific Talks and the Environment.

Richard Edwards

First convention: Season 79;

Responsibilities and interests: Hotel Liaison, Finance, Operations and Computing.

Caroline Mullan

First convention: Seacon '79;

Responsibilities and interests: Publications, Programme, Finance, Fanzines and The Women's Periodical.

Bernie Peek

First convention: Novacon (1971);

Responsibilities and interests: Publications, Programme, Fancy Dress, Photography and Food.

Roger Perkins

First convention: Chessmancon (1972);

Responsibilities and interests: Membership, Hotel Liaison, Finance, Silly Games, Puns and Food.

John Stewart

First convention: Skycon (1978);

Responsibilities and interests: Publications, Operations, Publicity, Folk Music and Computing.

Peter Tyers

First convention: Terracon (1976);

Responsibilities and interests: Hotel Liaison, Photography, Films, Food, Puns and Fell Walking.

Kathy Westhead

First convention: Coventry (1977);

Responsibilities and interests: Membership, Programme, Creche, Food and Silly Games.

Mike Westhead

First convention: Novacon 4 (1974);

Responsibilities and interests: Membership, Programme, Motor Racing and Games.

The Convention

It is our intention to run a traditional style Eastercon catering for a wide range of interests. We are planning a mix of serious programming, of talks, films, games, quizzes, panels, and all the usual, and some unusual events, that make an Eastercon special. In particular we would like to celebrate fifty years of Science Fiction Conventions - the first organised convention was held in this country in 1937 - in various ways. We hope to run a good convention, with the sort of relaxed and friendly 'flavour' that has imbued previous BECCONS. With your help we will succeed.

Many people are convinced that we can run a good convention, have taken out pre-supporting membership of BECCON '87 and we would like to have listed them here, but there are over two hundred names, and we prefer to use the space to tell you about the convention hotel. If you would like to pre-support us and have not already done so, please fill in the enclosed form and send or give it to us along with £1. If you are a pre-supporting member, and we win the bid at Albacon III to hold the 1987 Eastercon, this amount will of course be deducted from your supporting or attending membership.

The Convention Hotel

It is our intention to hold the 1987 Eastercon in the Metropole Hotel at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

The N.E.C. is readily accessible from all parts of the U.K. It is well served by the InterCity rail network (the station is Birmingham International); the M6 motorway passes within a few hundred yards of the complex; and Birmingham International Airport is only a mile away.

The hotel is set a little apart from the exhibition centre, and stands beside a lake among lawns and trees. For those who choose to travel by train, it is less than ten minutes walk from the station, and for people coming by car there is ample free parking close to the hotel.

The Metropole hotel is superbly equipped to hold an Eastercon. The bulk of the programming will be held in the main convention suite, which is self-contained and accessible from two wide corridors which meet at hotel reception. There are three large halls which can be divided to provide between three and eight rooms of varying size (ranging from one hundred to eighteen hundred people), a fully equipped cinema which seats two hundred people, and several smaller rooms. On the other side of the hotel - all of thirty yards away! - there are three more rooms of a reasonable size.

As for food and drink, the hotel has expressed willingness to provide a variety of snacks and meals for the convention at a range of (low) prices, and of course there is the convention bar(s). Apart from these, there is a first class restaurant, which serves good (expensive) food, a pub which serves both real ale and a good selection of medium priced food, two other bars (one also serves buffet style food), and a shop.

There are five hundred bedrooms in the Metropole itself, all with private bathrooms, tea and coffee making facilities, and in-house video films. If that is not enough, the overflow is the Warwick Hotel, which is right next door. Between them, the two hotels have twelve hundred beds, more than enough accommodation for everyone attending the convention.

We think that this is an outstanding venue for an Eastercon. If you agree and wish to pre-support this bid, please fill in the enclosed form and send or give it to us along with £1.

The BECCON '87 address is:

BECCON '87. 191 The Heights, Northolt, Middlesex. UB5 4BU.