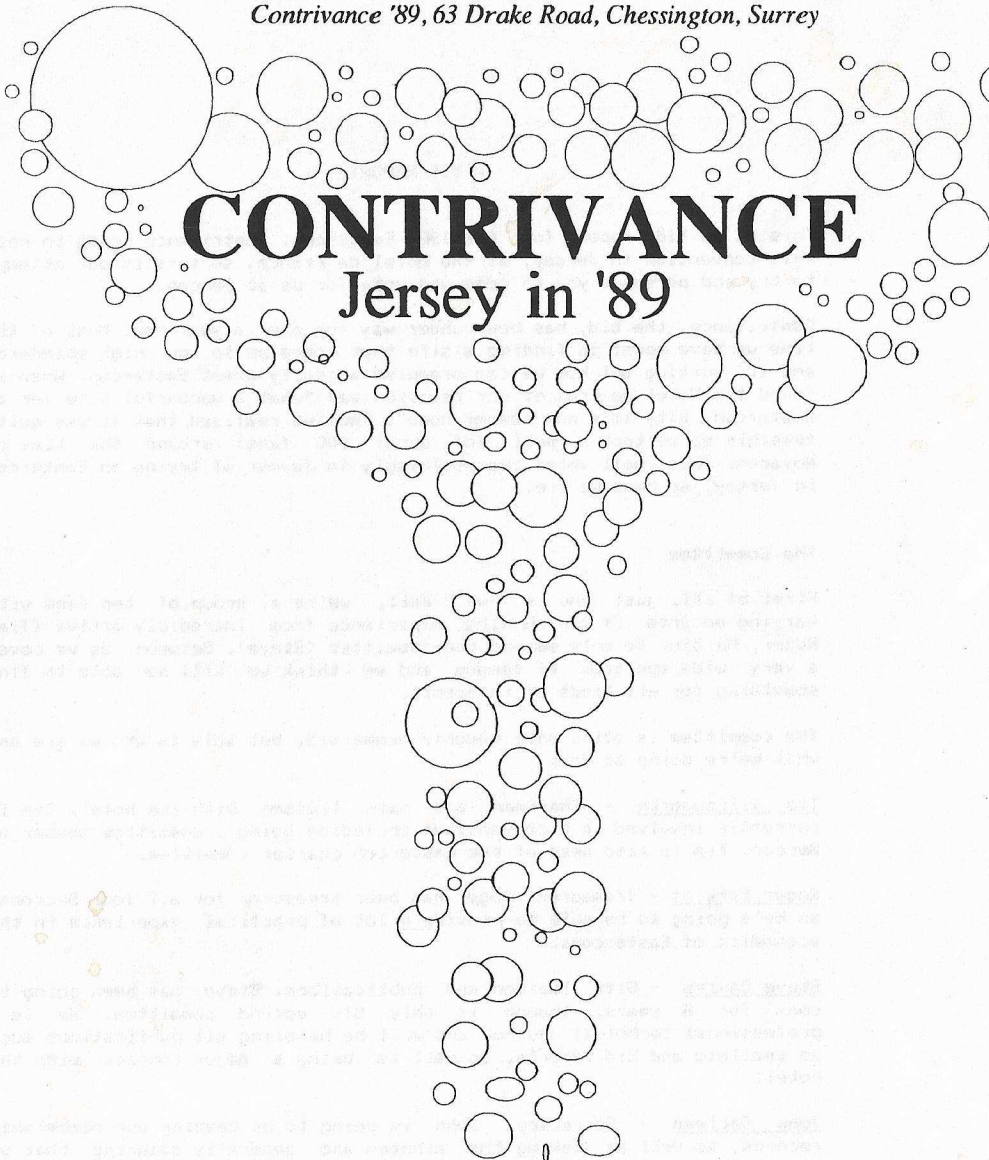


Contrivance '89, 63 Drake Road, Chessington, Surrey



CONTRIVANCE

Jersey in '89

BID

REPORT

A BID REPORT

This is a bid report for the 1989 Eastercon. Contrivance hopes to hold this convention in Jersey, at the Hotel de France, so this is our attempt to try and persuade you to come and vote for us at Beccon.

Contrivance, the bid, has been under way for over a year now. Most of the time we have spent in finding a site that comes up to our high standards and in working out how we can organise a really great Eastercon. When we found the Hotel de France, our reaction was "what a wonderful site for an Eastercon, pity it's not nearer home". Then we realised that it was quite feasible so we took a poll (of about 100 fans) around the time of Novacon. This poll voted overwhelmingly in favour of trying an Eastercon in Jersey, so here we are.

The Committee

First of all, just who is "we"? Well, we're a group of ten fans with varying amounts of con-running experience from incredibly active (Tim, Roger, Martin) to only second con-committee (Steve). Between us we cover a very wide spectrum of fandom and we think we will be able to find something for all kinds of interests.

The committee is still only roughly organised, but this is who we are and what we're doing so far:

Tim Illingworth - Chairman and main liaison with the hotel. Tim is currently involved in 5 conventions including being a committee member of Beccon. Tim is also head of the Eastercon charter committee.

Roger Perkins - Treasurer. Roger has been treasurer for all four Beccons, so he's going to be able to provide a lot of practical experience in the economics of Eastercons.

Steve Davies - Site liaison and publications. Steve has been going to cons for 8 years, though is only his second committee. He is a professional technical author and will be handling all publications such as leaflets and bid reports, as well as being a major contact with the hotel.

John Dallman - Secretary. John is going to be keeping our membership records, as well as taking the minutes and generally ensuring that we don't lose track of all the suggestions and offers of help we have received/hope to receive.

Paul Dormer - Travel. With our unique location, we will be having to organise travel specially. Paul got some experience of this when he was on the Seacon 84 Eurocon committee, so we're going to get him to do it again.

Chris Cooper - One of fandom's most noticeable fans, Chris is going to be keeping order and making sure that media fandom doesn't get overlooked.

Peter Wareham - Peter was shanghaied while he was attending a convention in the USA and couldn't argue back.

Gwen Funnell - Not just present to keep Peter under control, Gwen brings that essential touch of realism to committee meetings.

Martin Hoare - Quite apart from being a technical wizard, Martin has a lot of experience of con committees and is especially adept at handling hotels. We haven't needed to brow-beat the De France yet, but we can do it if we have to.

Katie Hoare - Essential for brow-beating Martin, Katie is currently embroiled in Conspiracy but will be getting more involved with Contrivance after August.

Enough of the committee. What sort of convention do we plan to run?

We want to run a convention that will include as many people as possible. Not just mass quizzes with everyone being eliminated, but actually taking part in discussions and workshops. We want you to go away from Contrivance with the feeling that you've actually done something over the convention, instead of just sat in one of our many bars and watched the world go by (unless of course you want just to sit in the bars).

We have got definite commitments from our two main guests of honour who will, we believe, appeal to two totally different parts of Fandom. We are planning to build programme streams and themes around our guests as well as getting them involved in the workshops. There will of course be additional themes, some with special guests of their own. Fannish activity will be emphasised in all its aspects, from fanzines to literary discussion groups, from conrunning to filking.

The Hotel

One of the most important parts of a convention is the hotel. We believe that we have found a hotel that is ideally suited to being a con hotel. The Hotel de France was built in the last century as a luxury hotel and, except for an interlude when it was a Jesuit seminary, has continued that tradition ever since. It stands on a low ridge overlooking the town of St Helier (capital of Jersey) and can accommodate over 600 people. In the hotel's private grounds is a conference centre (the Lido de France) which we shall also be using. The Lido includes a disco, a health-club, several bars, a large hall and a cinema with 35mm projection facilities.

Our major problem with the De France so far, has been that every time we ask them to provide something special for the con they tell us that they already do that as standard (and at a cheaper rate than most hotels after months of hard bargaining). The facilities are not only spacious, they are well-organised, which we have found to be a very rare virtue in

modern hotels.

The number of function rooms is more than we think we will require, so we will be able to cope even if we have a sudden influx of people at the last moment. Furthermore, all the rooms are within the grounds of the hotel, so there will be no need to brave Jersey's (minimal) traffic when going from one item to another.

The overflow hotel (the Rosebank) is also within the grounds of the De France, and is owned by the same management so there should be no problems there. The Rosebank, incidentally, is being connected to the De France by a covered, well-lit walkway so you won't even have to expose yourselves to Jersey's sunny climate when you go to the programme.

If the overflow fills up, there are an incredible number of small hotels and cheap boarding houses very nearby. We have been told that there are 5000 beds inside 10 minutes walk from the hotel, and we could probably accomodate the whole convention within two hundred yards of the De France.

Rates

We have been offered a room rate for the Hotel de France of a maximum of £20.50 per night for one person in a twin. This is a firm rate for 1989 and not an estimate based on current prices. However we may yet be able to negotiate an even better deal. The room rate includes full English breakfast - and also serve yourself with rolls, cold meat, fruit, fruit juice etc. We sampled this breakfast when we over there recently, and it makes the average hotel breakfast pale in comparison (the convention will be served the standard breakfast, not a cut-down version as some hotels do). The hotel has offered the facility of continental breakfast served in the rooms for those people in the De France, ~~we~~ have not yet decided whether to take them up on this.

What we will definitely be offering is an extension of the convention rates, both before and after the con, for up to a week. So if you want to, you could have a two-week holiday in the Channel Islands at discount rates and with a convention in the middle of it. What more could you possibly want?

Well, you might want to bring your (non-fannish) family so we will be having a "relatives membership" at a nominal cost. This will allow them to take advantage of the cheap rates and facilities under the convention's agreement with the hotel. Naturally, there will also be cheap membership rates for children, soft toys, and other pets (there are no quarantine restrictions between the UK and Jersey).

Room rates for the Rosebank (the overflow hotel next door) are approx. £15 (75% of the De France rate) including full breakfast. We have looked around the Rosebank, and were quite impressed, but as the hotel was closed at the time we haven't tried their breakfasts. The Rosebank isn't quite as stunning as the De France but it is a comfortable hotel and is a very short walk away.

The rooms in a boarding house next door to the overflow hotel were about £10 this year, and should still be priced in that general area in 1989. Alternatively, you could try self-catering accommodation, and some travel agents are offering package deals including travel and accommodation which is (entirely by co-incidence) no more than ten minutes walk from the De France. If you arrange to travel in groups, you can even get further discounts.

We should point out at this juncture that single rooms are (as everywhere) in very short supply. If you want a single in the De France or the Rosebank, it will be in a twin room, and the rate will adjusted to reflect this. For those with large families, though, the De France does offer family rooms with three beds (one of which is a double).

Food and drink

Jersey has lots of cheap and wonderful food and cheap drink. The De France itself has two restaurants, one of which will seat everybody staying in the hotel (so there should be no need to queue for breakfast). The food in the De France is excellent, and very good value for money both in the restaurants and the bar snacks. Good food is extremely easy to find in Jersey. There is an annual good food festival which ensures that quality is kept up, not just in the top restaurants but also in the cheap fast food places as well.

As no doubt you realise by now, Jersey has no VAT and minimal excise duty. Therefore the price of alcoholic drinks is very much lower than on the mainland. Coupled with Jersey's proximity to France, you can see that you will have to be very careful not to over-indulge. Fortunately, Jersey counts as an overseas country and you can count on a generous duty-free allowance when going home (and going to the convention, come to that). The same naturally applies to petrol, tobacco and perfume - though we advise you not to drink too much of these.

The hotel is currently serving the local beer, Mary Ann, at a price of around 68p per pint. If you think that's cheap, we found a pub (called The Wellington!) with a bar price of 50p per pint. For the convention, the hotel will also be serving real ale from Guernsey (or Bass if requested) at the same price as the Mary Ann.

Travel

This is of course the place where Contrivance appears to be slightly more expensive than the common Eastercon. However, we calculate that the average fan can probably save their fare out of the VAT that they won't have to pay (especially if VAT goes up again).

There are two main options, ferry and plane. The ferry costs about £35 (though the Theatre and Concert Rail Club tell us they can do something about that) and takes most of a night. The ferry ends up about twenty minutes walk from the hotel, but we will arrange for coaches to meet it

and are considering having an on-board registration desk so that the con will start when you leave port. The plane is a bit more expensive, though we are investigating the possibility of chartering an aircraft (which brings the price down considerably, but has the disadvantage of requiring people to turn up at the same time). Theatre & Concert apparently have a deal with British Airways though, so there may be room for improvement there too. Incoming flights will also be met by coaches.

Of course, if you try one of the standard travel agents' packages, you might manage to do it even cheaper. At least one current package deal costs £89 for seven nights accommodation with the return air fare included.

Basically, the overall cost for a London fan would probably be marginally less than attending a convention in the North. The break-even point is somewhere around Birmingham, with Scottish fans having to pay a bit more to get down south. We think it's worth it, we hope you will too.

Vote for Contrivance!

We think we can run a really good convention, and we think we've found the perfect place to do it in. If you're convinced, come and vote for us in the bidding session on Sunday. If you aren't convinced, either come along to the bidding session and ask questions, or talk to us on the Contrivance desk. Either way, we want to know what you think and what you want from an Eastercon.

Pre-Supporting members as of 25th March 1987:

MIKE ABBOTT
PHILIP ALLCOCK
BRIAN AMERNGEN
C.P. AYRES
MARGRET AUSTIN
IAIN BANKS
JOHN BARK
ANDERS BELLIS
SIMON BERESFORD
SIMON BERESFORD II
TONY BERRY
JOHN BOTHAM
TIM BROADRIBB
KEN BROWN
STEVE BULL
KIM CAMPBELL
JOHN W CAMPBELL REES
MIKE CHRISTIE
MATS CLAESSON
PETER COHEN
CHRIS COOPER
1/2 R CRUTTENDEN
WENDY CRUTTENDEN

7. AYRES?

JOHN DALLMAN
MIKE DAMESICK
MALCOM DAVIES
STEVE DAVIES
IAIN DICKSON
DERMOT DOBSON
PURDEY DOBSON
CHRIS DONALDSON
PAUL DORMER
MARTIN EASTERBROOK
BARBERA A. EDWARDS
RICHARD C.M. EDWARDS
RICHARD C.M. EDWARDS II
DAVE ELLIS
DAVE ELLIS II
DAVID ELWORTHY
BERNIE EVANS
JULIET EYEIONS
NICK FAREY
COLIN FINE
MIKE FORD
SUSAN FRANCIS
GWEN FUNNELL

JIM GODDARD
STEVE GREEN
MIKE GREY
URBAN GUNNARSSON
EVE HARVEY
JOHN HARVEY
CHARLES HAWDSLEY
JULIAN HEADLONG
KATIE HOARE
MARTIN HOARE
MIKE HOOK
TIM ILLINGWORTH
LINDA STRICKLER JAMES
MORAG KERR
ALICE KOHLER
DAVE LANGFORD
HAZEL LANGFORD
STEVE LAWSON
RUTH LE SUEUR
BERNARD LEAK
BERNARD LEAK II
DAVE LERMIT
STEVE LINTON
ANN LOOKER
PETER MABEY
BRUCE JM MACDONALD
HELEN MARSHALL
HUGH MASCETTI
HUGH MASCETTI II
ROB MEADES
MARK MEENAN
NICK MILLS
DEBBY MOIR
CAROLINE MULLAN
PHIL NANSON
HENRY NEWTON
KEITH OBORN
JOAN PATTERSON
ROGER PERKINS
DAVID POWER
TERRY PRATCHETT
KEVIN WINSTON READER
JOHN F.W. RICHARDS
DOV RIGAL
JACQUELINE ROBINSON
ROGER ROBINSON
BARBERA ROCHFORD
MIC ROGERS
STEPHEN ROTHMAN
MARCUS ROWLAND
BRUCE SAVILLE
MIKE SCANTLEBURY
ALISON SCOTT
MIKE SCOTT

?MAWDSLEY?

LARRY

PATERSON

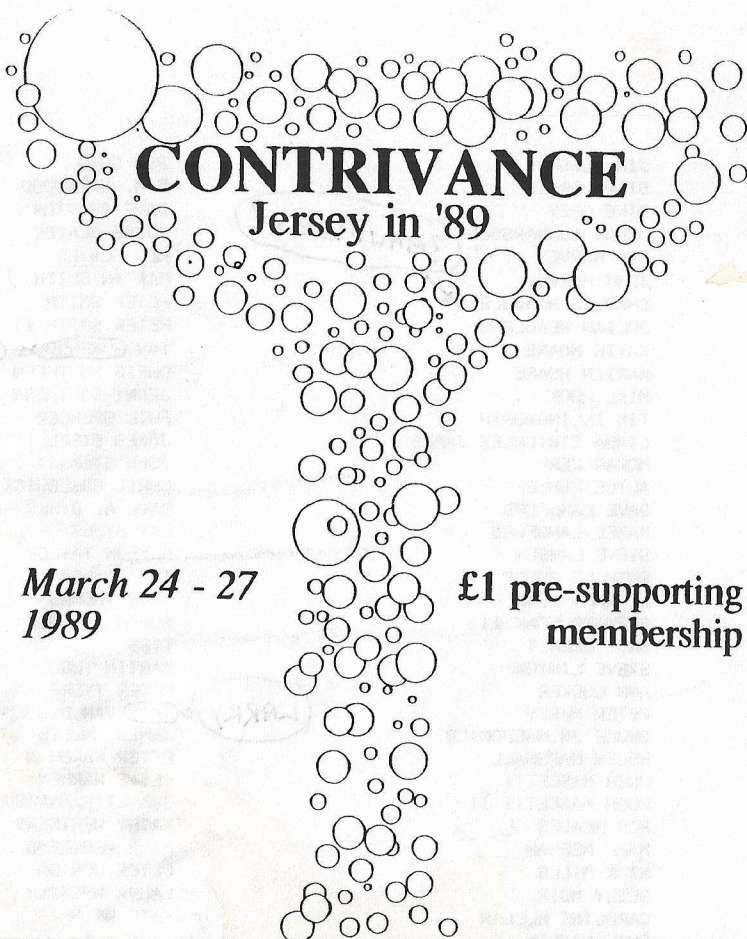
BOB SHAW
D.M. SHERWOOD
DAVE SHOTTON
JOYCE SLATER
KEN SLATER
MARTIN SMITH
PETER SMITH
PETER SMITH II
IAN SORENSON
CHRIS SOUTHERN
JENNY SOUTHERN
PHIL SPENCER
JAMES STEEL
JOHN STEWART
CHRIS SUSLOWICZ
DAVE A. SYMES
FAY SYMES
ALYSON TAYLOR
TOM TAYLOR
DAVE THOMAS
SUSAN THURSTON
TIBBS
MARTIN TUDOR
PETER TYERS
LARRY VAN DER PUTTE
JAMES WALLIS
PETER WAREHAM
CLIVE WARREN
JEANETTE WARREN
KATHY WESTHEAD
MIKE WESTHEAD
PETER WESTON
LAURA WHEATLY
KATE WRIGHT

SORENSEN

Total number of members:
134

We'll be taking pre-supporting memberships right up to just before the bidding session. What better way can you think of spending that pound which was making a hole in your pocket?

Especial thanks, by the way, to those fans whose enthusiasm for Contrivance is so great that they have already joined several times over. Simon Beresford had to be forcibly restrained from joining the third time.



**March 24 - 27
1989**

**£1 pre-supporting
membership**

CONTRIVANCE, 63 DRAKE ROAD, CHESSINGTON, SURREY

I enclose 1 pound for pre-supporting membership of Contrivance '89

(I agree to have my personal details kept on a computer database)

Name: _____

Address: _____
