

NOVAcon 4

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

25th-26th-27th October 1974 Imperial Centre Hotel, Birmingham

P.R.3.

Dear Bath Lovers,

This will be your last Progress Report until you pick up your envelope at the registration desk. Therefore, we have to tell you all the bits and pieces, except the three important ones which we have forgotten. Doubtless 43 of you will remind us of them at the registration desk. Thank you in advance.

When you arrive at the registration desk you will be charged £1.00., plus 50p. registration fee if you are not already registered. If you are registered, there will be an envelope with your name on and in it will be your programme booklet, your loose programme, your name badge which you are required by convention law, (everybody insists that I say by Jack Cohen law), to wear. Anybody found not wearing a badge will be required to buy any passing Committee Member a drink. To return, on the outside of this envelope will be written what you owe us for your buffet tickets etc.

Major routes to Brum are: M5 M1 M6 - A's 45, 41, 34, 38, 435, 441, 456 & 457. These all lead eventually to the centre at the inner ring road or Queensway. A map of the centre itself showing the relative positions of these and the con hotel is included. Coach services run from all major centres to the Digbeth coach station and bus, taxi or shanksy's pony will get you to New Street easily from there. Trains run to Birmingham New Street which is only 5 mins walk from the Imperial. Car parking facilities are available at the N.C.P. Car Park next to New Street Station. Hope you find your way alright.

We must apologise for any delay in the acknowledgement of your hotel booking forms; there is a new Manager at the hotel and he has a lot of muddle to sort out from his predecessor. He seems willing and we are unsure yet about ability. So far it looks good.

There are some things about the actual programme which cannot be finalised until the very last minute, and we have already had some news which will make some differences. Jim Blish is not very well at the moment and may not be able to take part in the programme items in which we were expecting him, but we anticipate that other Authors present will be happy to fill in. Among these are Harry Harrison and Chip Delany, James White and Bob Shaw, so you can expect.....

Ken Slater has offered a £10.00. prize for art work. We must inform you of the rules for this prize. These are:-

1. The art work, colour or pen and ink, or whatever, must illustrate a scene from a story, S.F. or Fantasy. Ken recommends you read the whole story before illustrating one scene.
2. The competition is only open to novices, in the horse-world sense, i.e. you should not have earned more than £50.00., from art work in the last 12 months.
3. The entries will be judged by a panel of three.
4. All entries to be submitted by mid-day on Saturday, 26th October. Postal entries will be accepted. All entries to be submitted, stating the story the art work is illustrating, to: Roger G. Peyton, 131, Gillhurst Road, Harborne,
chairman: Dr. Jack Cohen

B'ham. B17 8PG.

committee: Pauline E. Dungate · Stan Eling · Robert Hoffman

Anline Peyton · Hazel C. Reynolds

Please do remember about the fancy dress. You will have about one hour after the Galactic Buffet in which to get ready and you should be joining the rest of us a little after 10.30 p.m. on the Saturday night. Judging will be at midnight.

Please try and turn up early on the Friday evening. You will then be able to register and have a drink before the programme starts off with Peter Weston's adventures in America as our TAFF representative. There will also be films on the Friday night. The registration desk, thanks to Hazel and Pauline, will certainly be open by 5.00 p.m. on the Friday.

See you then. You will recognise us because we will have Committee badges. We also look as if we have just survived a convention.

Dr. Jack Cohen - Chairman.

P.S. Have your 50p. ready for Novacon 5.