

NOVACON 7

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM SF GROUP

4th - 5th - 6th November 1977.

Venue: Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham

**** PROGRESS REPORT FOUR ****

This is the final PR. You are now on your own and will be expected to display all necessary survival qualities in the trip to Birmingham. To confuse and bewilder you further, a map is provided overleaf; it gives the locations of many useful hospitals which you may care to visit on your way to the Royal Angus or (if you didn't book quickly enough) to the Grand Hotel---your booking confirmation will have told you which. Travelling details follow...

BY RAIL: Passing the barrier at New Street Station, take the escalator in front of you; go left at the top; walk towards the fountain and into the passage by it; at the far end you'll find yourself on a ramp descending to New Street, while a stairway to the left goes to Stephenson Street. To reach either hotel you may take the map and boldly walk, or catch a no.101 bus from Stephenson Street to the Post & Mail building (marked on map) whence there is nothing for it but to walk.

BY BUS: Turn right on leaving the Station Street bus station; take the first passage to your right in Station Street and climb the stairs to the next street level. You have only to cross the narrow road to your left, enter the forecourt of New Street Station (on the left) and walk to the right, arriving at the escalator of last paragraph. Go up it as before.

BY CAR: As you zoom past the Royal Angus, watch for the garage and car-park right next to it: turn left into car-park. If on the wrong side of the road (some people will come from odd directions, we suppose) go on to the Lancaster Circus roundabout and return in the other lane.

BY TAXI: Wait for hours until a taxi condescends to stop for you. In the meantime, practice articulating "The Roy-al Ang-us Ho-tel" very very clearly. There is little more that we can do for you.

ON FOOT: Walk to Birmingham and use the map. Start early.

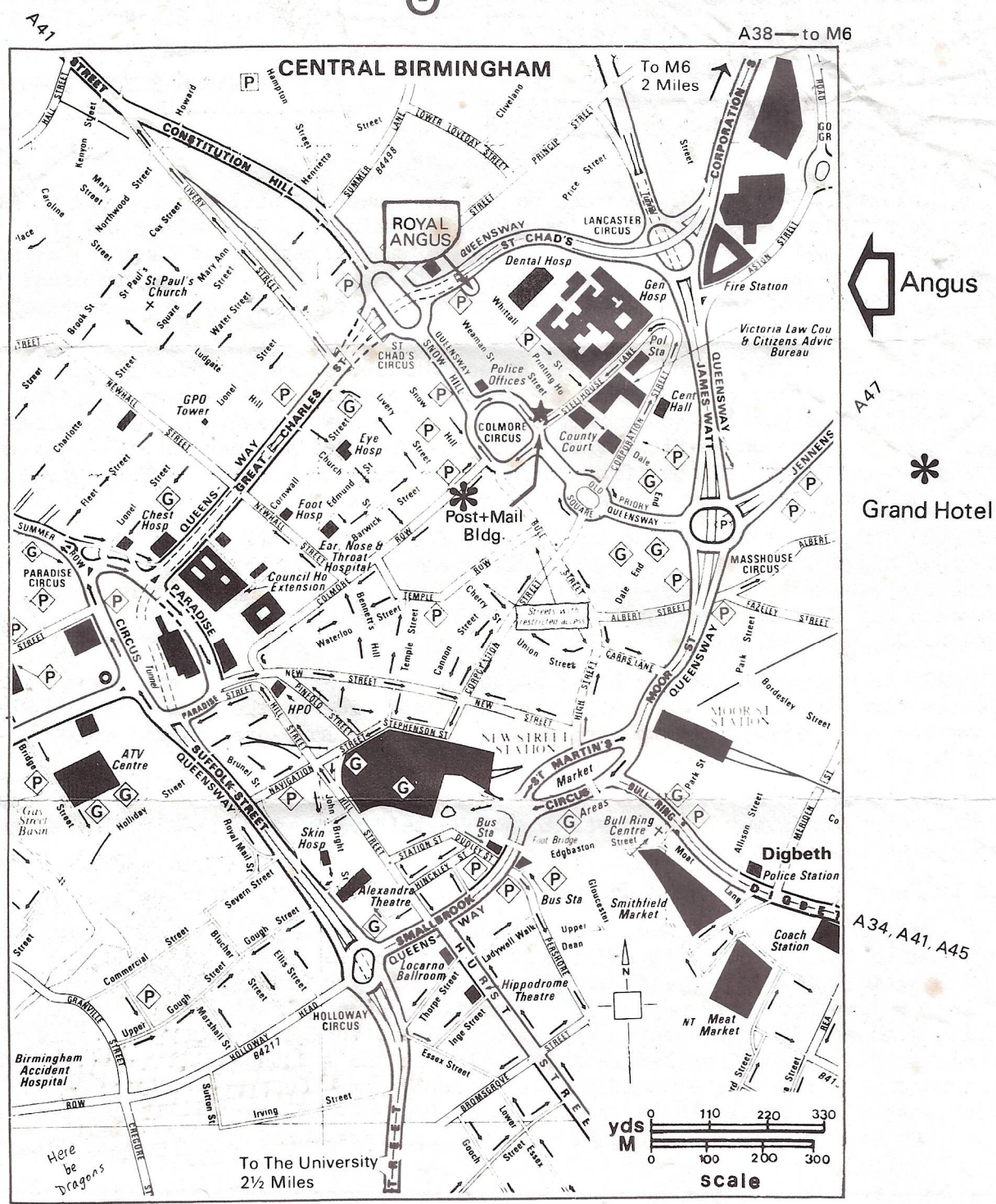
Having finally attained the Royal Angus and taken possession of your room (if any), proceed to the second floor and the registration desk. There you will receive many goodies, including a badge: this must be worn if you wish to buy drinks and avoid the cries of "Gatecrasher!" which will otherwise resound about you. The programme will begin with an official opening at 8pm on Friday, though the Book Room will probably be ready to fleece you long before this... it and the Art Show will be set up in the afternoon. By the way, even if you've reserved Art Show space, it would help a lot for your work to be available before 5.30pm on Friday---the earlier the better, anyway.

(Pause for commercial break. See over for Last Words.)

HARRY HARRISON will be signing copies of his new book, GREAT BALLS OF FIRE: the Illustrated History of Sex in Science Fiction at ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP on the 4th November 1977 at 12 noon.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

This is the Friday of NOVACON 7 weekend so you will have the chance to get your copy signed. Harry will be at the shop most of the afternoon. Remember the address - ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ



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LAST WORDS

We need auction material! Otherwise Rog Peyton---deprived of his true vocation---will wander listlessly about the bar, attempting to sell you beer-mats or even pork pies. Prevent this horror by bringing interesting and unwanted material... We'll accept anything at all as a donation, but if you want to sell something through the auction please make it something Good---good enough for a reserve price of a couple of pounds. (Novacon takes a mere 10%) There will also be a separate Art Auction.

And so the committee falls silent at last. Chairman Stan Eling is giving curt orders to the hotel; Martin and Liese Hoare are still preparing forms and sticky labels; Janice Maule is counting the money while Ian broods over all the things that can go wrong with the programme; Dave Langford puts a dustsheet over his typewriter. Urgent queries may still be sent to Martin and Liese at 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKS, RG8 7LG; in genuine emergency, 'phone them at Pangbourne (07357) 2875.