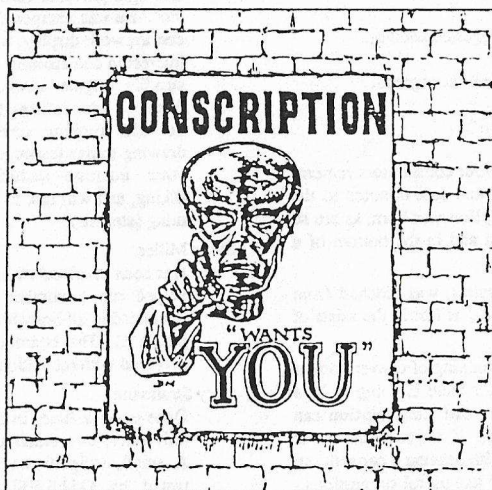


Conscription

Progress Report One



Cobden Hotel, Birmingham.

24 - 25 September 1988

One small step for fans, One giant leap for fandom.

Cytha
18 Glyde Rd.
Brighton
BN2

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Introduction

Much discussion came in the wake of Worldcon on the problems of convention running. Numerous voices said:

"We should get organised and more professional".

"We should have a meeting similar to the Americans".

One Thursday night a few months ago four fans in Walthamstow found these sentiments particularly appealing:

"Someone should do it" one cried.

"Let's do it ourselves" suggested another.

"Yes, what a good idea" all four agreed.

"Let's call it Conscription".

The next day one of the four conspirators remembered these suggestions and sent minutes to the other three. So Conscription was born, as are so many cons; late at night and in the bottom of a glass.

The name it transpires, was pinched from someone - but exactly who is lost in the mists of history.

It is time that the running of conventions is sorted out. Sooner or later there is going to be a major disaster. We hope that Conscription can help to prevent this. So if anyone has, is or intends to be involved with running a convention; or has helped at cons; or has useful suggestions - come and talk about it.

The Committee

Henry Balen

In the earlier years of this decade a small person wandered into fandom via Albacon

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Cover illo by Barbara Mascetti

1 - co-founded Glasgow University SF society and then got involved with running SF cons. He became notorious for the unanswerable University challenge questions at Glasgow conventions. He was later to be known by various names, amongst which was the "mountain werewolf" - this may have been due to a tendency to walk hills. Other interests have included the martial arts.

Hugh Mascetti

Hugh is a native of Wales living in exile in Walthamstow. He got involved in fandom almost by accident, in 1977, by walking into the back bar of a pub in Oxford and finding a group of fans singing "Inoldmexico". He was irresponsible for the first Beacon firework display, which also started his interest in con-running. Hugh's life has got steadily brighter since. He is married to Barbara, who refuses to have anything to do with running conventions, but likes drawing things (especially if paid). Hugh's other interests include target shooting, filking, and will talk to anybody about anything (almost!).

Steve Miller

Has been involved with fandom since 1978, helped run a number of conventions. Is interested in all branches of SF, comics and media (!). This bearded 29 year old is also involved with recreation groups...

Gary Strattmann

Once upon a time, in a small, unregarded university, in a small unregarded country. A small, insignificant life-form was contacted by O.U.S.F.G. He was warped, twisted and changed. He became a science-fiction fan: he developed strange interests - drink, explosives and cons. Nearly ten years later, that life form is older, greyer and has some interesting new scars but he still likes drink, explosives and cons, he has added martial arts, comics and role-playing games in the continuing mutation and, occasionally, when there is time he reads S.F.

† Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group.

Hotel

Our hotel, the Cobden, is just over a mile from Birmingham New Street station. It is owned by *Friendly Hotels* the same group that own the *Central Hotel* in Glasgow (where the Albacorn has been for the past few years). The hotel has two "blocks" an older section and the new which is the *premier* section.

The hotel lives up to the name of the group. And we think they have given us a good package - we have good hotel rates and the beer prices will be close to that in the local pubs.

The hotel has a fitness centre, which includes a swimming pool, jacuzzi and saunas which will be open for the use of members resident in the Hotel.

	1 night	2 nights
single	£19	£35
twin	£17	£31
premier twin	£22	£41

The rates shown are per person and include full English breakfast. Hotel booking forms will be sent out with the next PR.

Convention Concept.

The idea is that Conscripton will be more than a convention: it will also be a conference. We are hoping for a pooling of knowledge and experience, and to achieve this we are planning a programme based around a series of seminars reporting back to plenary sessions. This format has worked well in academic conferences.

One of the main products of the convention will be the amount of published material (to which a significant proportion of our budget is allocated). We intend to publish articles and reports in our future PRs and programme book; and the results of the weekend's discussions after the convention.

Pleas

We are, of course, looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the convention: people to chair the seminar groups and plenary sessions, write articles and provide ideas. We need topics of burning issues to discuss, and daring new solutions to "old known" problems. Please scribble up your favourite hobby horse and let us know about it.

If you have any audio visual equipment that you can lend out for the weekend please let us know.

It would be useful if you could list your main areas of experience and interest when you send in your membership.

Publications

We intend to produce a series of publications, firstly using the progress reports as a medium for discussion leading up to the convention. A programme book which will contain, in the main, a series of articles on each aspect of convention organisation and hopefully a post convention publication with the conclusions (if any) and reports of what was said at the actual convention.

If anyone has anything to contribute please do not hesitate to write up your idea and send it in. The deadline date for progress report two is given below.

PR Advertising Rates

Full Page	£15
Half Page	£8
Quarter Page	£5

The deadline for copy for the next PR is 29 February 1988.

Membership

We have set an upper limit to the number of members who can attend to 120, this is because of the size of the hotel's function rooms.

We have finally set our membership rates. As mentioned above the major cost for the convention is going to be publications, so we have developed an unusual membership tier: £2 for pre-con publication membership entitles you to all publications (Progress Reports) that come out before the convention. Whereas supporting, at £6, means you will receive the programme book as well.

Please make cheques payable to Conseription.

You can convert at any time to full membership, the conversion rates will be kept constant.

Membership at 9/12/87					
1	Henry Balen (f)	10	Bernard Peck (p)	19	Roger Robinson (p)
2	Hugh Mascetti (f)	11	C J Suslowicz (p)	20	Bernie Evans (p)
3	Steve Miller (f)	12	Martin Easterbrook (p)	21	Jonathan Cowie (p)
4	Gary Straumann (f)	13	Margarit Austin (p)	22	Steve Linton (p)
5	Jay Felton (p)	14	Colin Fine (p)	23	Pat Brown (p)
6	Fiona McArthur (p)	15	Doug McCallum (p)	24	Roger Perkins (p)
7	Fiona Anderson (p)	16	Paul Oldroyd (p)	25	Iain Dickson (p)
8	Caroline Mullan (p)	17	Martin Hoare (p)		
9	Chris Cooper (p)	18	Vince Docherty (p)		

Name

Address

Interests

Please tick appropriate box.

Membership
Conversion

Full
☐ £10

Supporting
☐ £6
☐ £4

Pre-con publications
☐ £2
☐ £8