



## The Newsletter of Concourse, the 55th British National Science Fiction Convention (Eastercon)

If you aren't a member then this isn't going to make much sense.

### 2003 BSFA Award Winners

**Best Novel** - *Felaheen* by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (accepted by Darren Nash, pictured); **Best Short Fiction** - "The Wolves in the Walls" by Neil Gaiman & Dave McKean; **Best Artwork** - Cover of *The True Knowledge of Ken MacLeod* by Colin Odell;

**Best non-fiction** - "Reading Science Fiction" by Farah Mendlesohn (intro to *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*). For more info see [www.bsfa.co.uk](http://www.bsfa.co.uk)



### TARTAN: reviewed

If there is a David Wake play on at a convention near you then you really should skip supper to see it. I laughed so much I cried. Then I cried so much my eyes hurt. To paraphrase Jon Courtenay Grimwood: any good sequel should stand up to reading without experiencing the earlier works. But if you had read the first work then you should get more out of it. This was the case for "TARTAN: restrung" which parodied Blade Runner, The Matrix I, II, and III, Captain Scarlet, and so many other shows you probably would have missed a few of them. It even self-parodied David Wake plays



which have memorable last minute script changes. David's last few years as a professional playwright have toned up his writing making the whole thing a lot tighter than previous productions and was impressively stage managed for something which didn't have a complete run through rehearsal. Costumes included the white rabbit which Eira stripped out of. I can't wait for the video, I mean DVD. [AM]

### More Awards

Danny Flynn won the Phlosque Award this year. "I don't know whether to be proud or offended." Previous winner Lisa Konrad tried to enlighten him: "I only know of one artist who has consistently refused the award."

### Floods

The filk oldie "Never flood the con hotel" got a revival last night. A fan in one of the smaller B&Bs was awoken in the small hours by an indoor rainstorm caused by a fan in the room above going to bed and leaving the sink tap running.



### Overheard

During rehearsal: "I think your cue is when Chris comes back on stage clothed. So if you see Chris naked don't press anything!"

### Baronial Motto

Several people have been asking the meaning of the motto "Sero sed serio" in the Baronial hall. Thanks to the on-line Latin dictionary at Notre Dame University, I can reveal that the answer appears to be "Late into the night, but with gravity".

[Colin Fine]

### Easter Egg Raffle

The winner was Forgetful Dr. S, who can pick up his prize at the BSFA desk in the dealers' room. Thanks to all concerned.

### Food

AJ's Bistro, Topping St – reasonable prices, good service, nice food – not easy to find restaurants with veggie options – and it was a relief to find a restaurant on Sunday evening that wasn't full or had run out of food! (Editor adds: "It was very smokey on Wednesday".)

### The Bid Won!

Concussion has won the bid to be the 2006 Eastercon. Hooray. "It will be a vibrant, generalist convention that reflects the interests of a wide variety of fans and professionals" says Farah Mendlesohn. And in true SMOF style adds: "You will have fun".

### Overheard

It's better now Dave (Wake) has gaffer taped her knickers on. (Dawn)

### Trains

For trains to London and south today: there are engineering works closures on the west coast main line. You're advised to check with National Rail for validity of tickets

on 08457 484950. But why not fly with Sprokette Air and their fine stewardesses...



## Concourse Masquerade

### Children Awards:

Most Real Feline: Princess

Bravest Knight: The Knight of the Golden Dragon

Most Chilled: The Ice Princess of California

Best Roar: The Lion King

Best Medieval Babe: Queen of the Salvaged Velvet

Most Ethereal Dance: The Sea Queen

Best Hobbit Feet: Michelle the Orc Slayer



Archbishop Lionel Fanthorpe was nominated for a Hall Costume award. He was denied access to the bar because they banned "Work Clothes".

### The luggage goes east...

We have had this email, purporting to be from Pat's luggage. Colm describes Pat's luggage as "big, blue and battered, quite similar to Pat really."



### Adult Awards:

Most Dysfunctional Family:

Mother Nature & Family

National Defense Award:

Baron von Otto

Best Presentation: Anders

Best in Show &

Workmanship: White Rabbit



### Out There

Has anyone noticed "The Rovers Return" cafe on Coronation St, proprietors Ron and Joyce Summers? Wondered where she'd got to.

Outside Dr. Who shop near the pleasure beach. Mother: "Look, it's a Dalek\* – You do remember the Dalek's, don't you?" Kid showed no recognition – has the world gone mad? (\* "Dalek" said with a northern accent)



BOOK MAD is less than 5 minutes gentle stroll along Church St – turn right outside Opera House exit – on the right hand side, just past The Syndicate Club – lots of SF/Fantasy etc. [Izzy Hanson]

### Late evening bar quiz

How many slices of bread are required for a single sandwich?

What is the name of the marble one size up from standard? (Ollie, Gobby, Holly, Tenner, Tolley, Other . . . )

Answers on a tacky Blackpool postcard to the usual address.

### Internet Access

Unfortunately this is not relevant until Tuesday, but if you ask nicely at a library, you can get free access via People's Network computers that are in all Blackpool libraries.

### Overheard

I did have an orgasm, but I left it at home.

I'll be in the mood for writing some obscene filk later. Will you be available for me to bounce things off on?



Hey there

In the absence of my lord and master, the GUFF delegate, they're using me to substitute. Count yourself lucky, they've seen the episode of HIGNFY with the lard. Does anybody know where he is, by the way? There was a phone call on a bad line from Tajikistan late yesterday, but we couldn't hear properly.

So, small convention in Rotorua, with some extremely friendly New Zealanders and hardly any sheep. New Zealand is as beautiful as you've heard, and the con is a lot of fun – Pat will be really sorry to have missed this.

So far, I've had a tour of the town, think Buxton in a wedding dress; been introduced in the opening ceremony, but left out the shower allusions; been on an international fandom panel with two Australians; been sold for personal service in an auction, but the bidder donated me back, later, much later; and hung out in the odd party, where I chatted up a cute handbag. When they found out I was happy to work on the con, they put me on badge checking duty on the dealer's room, where I watch the scenery and stuff...

The plan is they're putting me on a plane to Melbourne tomorrow, where I'm going to catch up with Stephen and Bruce, visit that Malaysian restaurant where Pat shocked the waitress in 1999 with the amount of food he ate, go look at the penguins and generally enjoy the wonderful metropolis.

Anyway, no-one's missing you, or him. So give my regards to your luggage and see you when I get back.

Ciao, baby.

### Confessions of an Eastercon Virgin.

Being a newboy I went to programme items. So I heard the Guests of Honour. I listened to John Clute. I went and asked my friends what the long words meant. I even found someone that read Sabatini and Weyman. I put faces to names of authors, bookdealers and fans. I probably have enough books to last me until Christmas, plus I have an even longer reading list. I chatted to people that I knew and those that I didn't. I had my first exposure to filk. I had a good time. I could have done with some better beer. See you in Hinckley. [Dave H]

(Photo to the left is of Charlie Stross in his pointy haired boss days when working at SCO)

"LieJournal" has been brought to you by Alex McLintock with help from Jan van't Ent and many many folks who dropped by. THANKS

