



A special post-convention issue (2nd ed).

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

If you weren't there then this isn't going to make much sense.

Mind you even if you were there this still might not make sense.

Pressing Ctrl-Alt-Delete on Zen

This reporter was surprised to note that one of the lecturers that he had at university, one Andrew A Adams, was on the panel. Having slept through many a Design Methodologies lecture, this reporter had grown to consider Mr Adams as having quite the sedative effect. It thus came as quite the relief for this reporter when the panel proved to be full of interesting discussion and not a wink of sleep was had. [Neil somebody or other]

ZZ9 Boring?

Your editor was expecting ZZ9 to do something really interesting this convention in order to get lots of plugs in the newsletter, but no.

Nothing. Nothing except complain about the lack of gossip. We generated some of our own by getting this bondage Beeblebear into the newsletter room and flat out onto our stretcher where we took photos. These photos will be appearing on a secret website soon or possibly available on CD if we get round to it.



Catering

Not only does British conventions drink bars dry but this time Deep Pan Pizza ran out of cheese!

There have been many people muttering about the price of pints in the Winter Gardens bars. Apparently the central London prices were despite an agreement with the committee to charge sensible amounts. Convention attendees voted with their feet at the Dead Dog party on Tuesday and visited local drinking establishments. The conference centre probably lost several hundred pounds in takings because of their short sidedness.

Plokta What?

Was there any Plokta.con publicity at all at Eastercon? Is anyone going to be there? I hope I can get a last minute room, membership and pirate suit. <plokta.con> Release 3.0, May 1-3 2004, Newbury
<http://www.plokta.com/plokta.con/>

Site Review.

You are in a maze of twisty turning passages all alike

Bodypainting: Retouched

Due to last minute confusion (no one could find the room) the body painting workshop was cancelled. However due to the popularity of this item it is hoped that a future convention will pencil it in.



...We don't need no stinking Printers

Apparently the missing newsletter printer did turn up, in a box, covered by stuff, underneath a table, behind a table cloth, in the Art Show, behind a door marked "Beware of the Leopard".

Roller Coaster More Dangerous than biking?

Several fans went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach the day after the convention. Noel "Toolman" Collyer and I did the "standing on the ground watching" and very entertaining it was too. Munquie enjoyed all the roller coasters though Liam Proven banged his leg on one of the rides.

Hugo Nominees At Concourse



Back: Jeffrey Ford, Jim Burns, Mark Roberts, John Clute,
Front: Cherryl Morgan, Charles Stross.

Convivial

The Newsletter Award for "*Best Dressed Convention Runners*" goes to



Convivial - the Civilised Convention on the Scientific Romance. Victorian themed science fiction in all its forms, from Jules Verne to the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.

Quality Central Hotel, Glasgow.

<http://www.empirewideweb.com/>

Guest of Honour Report?

There was an article recently in the Guardian (available online) by GoH Chris Priest about his attempt to claim Pension Credit. It makes amusing reading in a "black comedy / red tape" sort of way.

The James White Award

The winning entry for 2003/4 was "Lost Things Saved in Boxes" by Deirdre Ruane, a London-based writer originally from Dublin. Deirdre's story was chosen from a



field of over 100 entries from all over the world, including Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

[James Shields – <http://www.lostcarpark.com/>]

(Photo to left: Shock evidence that the James White Award administrator

James Bacon does actually own a suit!)

After the Con

Messages you don't want to see after arriving home:

"You have 4857 messages in your inbox to download".

Gossip

A convention goer woke up on Saturday morning to discover she was in the wrong hotel room! All perfectly innocent, of course. She tried to leave without the room's owner discovering her but was unsuccessful. She then discovered that she was also in the wrong hotel!

"1/2r where's yer trowsers"

One of the items which went missing over the weekend was a pair of embroidered trousers belonging to 1/2r. I couldn't bring myself to announce this in the newsletter at the time but did remind people to look after their bags. 1/2r's trousers were found. They made their way to the art show, then went up to the green room, then probably went to some parties and a ride on the Pepsi Max Big One before heading back and being reunited with a very happy 1/2r. This was announced over the ops radio system which resulted in various staff members falling over laughing in the middle of the final feedback session. [Chris O'Shea and Claire Brialey]

Eastercon Future

The programme item discussing the future of Eastercons was well attended and seems to be something worth talking about. There was further discussion of the trademarking of "Eastercon" for the purposes of conferences and meetings. This was done essentially to stop anyone else from doing it – but Dave Lalley expressed an interest in trademarking "Eastercon" for use with tins of beans. I think he was trying to make a point but I am not sure what it was. Jonjo Lewis-Jones apologised for writing to the Hanover in Hinckley inviting them to tender for future Eastercon bids. This had confused the hotel which is the site for Paragon 2, the 2005 Eastercon, in Hinckley. <http://www.paragon2.org.uk>

Pure mathematicians only ...

... might like to learn that Lie Journal has been put together by a Lie Group. [Doug]



Tartan: restrung

There are moves a foot to get "Tartan:restrung" nominated for a Dramatic Presentation Hugo at Interaction (The Glasgow Worldcon in 2005!) Find out more at www.worldcon.org or read your PR's. Like other David Wake productions there will be a video available – and maybe, for the first time, a DVD. Contact him for more info.

Early in the 21st Century, the world was ravaged by three plagues: an outbreak of Foot and Mouth led to the culling of all the cattle and sheep, an epidemic of Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes destroyed all the cats, dogs and fluffy bunny rabbits. Finally, a plague of Bums and Tums killed all the Aerobic Instructors. Mankind, out of shape and bereft of animal friends, took to carrying cuddly toys.

THE Gepetto and Son CORPORATION advanced android evolution into the NEXUS phase - a being virtually identical to a human - known as a Toy. Their slogans went from "Almost Human", to "More Human than Human" and, finally, "Buy One, Get One Free". NEXUS 4 Toys were a bit hopeless compared to the generic engineers who created them. But they were very, very cute. Toys were used Off-world as slave labour, in the hazardous exploration and colonization of other planets and in the bedrooms of sad individuals who never really grew up.

After a bloody mutiny by an Action Man Combat Team, Toys were declared illegal on earth - under penalty of death. Special police squads - STRING CUTTER UNITS - had orders to shoot to kill, upon detection, any trespassing Toy.

This was not called execution.

It was called gafiation.

[Nicked from the Tartan:restrung script by David Wake]

Last time I helped out with the newsletter at an Eastercon David Wake broke a leg falling off of stilts used in an "Alien" masquerade costume. This year was a lot better. Apart from a few bruises during the freeway crash in Captain Tartan there were no injuries. However we have just gotten a report that David's mum now has one fewer dining chairs than usual as David has just broken his leg with one.

Doc Weir Award

Robert "NoJay" Sneddon won the Doc Weir award. A movement to get more women awarded has been started.

Belated Birthdays

Dave Langford 10th April,

Dave Hardy 10th April.



Credits:

Oh sorry. I had so many people helping over the weekend that I forgot to write everyone's names down. Especial thanks go to John Dallman, David Haddock, David Stewart, and Steve Lawson for photos, the "Third Row" for turning up and volunteering, DougS for typing, and for Munquie for putting up with the fact that I spent the entire convention in the newsletter room. THANKS.

This special post convention edition of "LieJournal" has been brought to you by Alex McLintock and many contributors.

