

BRUM GROUP NEWS

April 1996

Issue 295

*The monthly newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group
(Honorary Presidents: Brian W Aldiss and Harry Harrison)*

GROUP CHAIRMAN & NEWSLETTER EDITOR - MARTIN TUDOR, SECRETARY - ANNE WOODFORD,
TREASURER - SARAH FREAKLEY, PUBLICITY OFFICER - STEVE JONES, ORDINARY MEMBER - ALAN
WOODFORD, NOVAACON 26 CHAIRMAN - CAROL MORTON, NOVAACON 27 CHAIRMAN - MARTIN TUDOR.

This month's speaker **Simon R. Green**

will address the Group on

Friday 19th April 1996, 7.45pm for 8pm,

at the Prince Hotel, Station Street,

(behind New St. Station, between the Electric Cinema and the Bus Station, Birmingham city centre).

Admittance: Members: £2.50, Non-Members £3.75. (Under 18s, Full-time Students and other
Unwaged £2.00, at the discretion of the Treasurer, on production of appropriate proof.)

Simon Green first tried to break into print in the seventies but didn't succeed until the late eighties when, after using two years on the dole to polish his style and submit vast amounts of work to a number of publishers, US publishers Ace offered him a six-book contract - one week *after* he'd started a new full-time job. The contract was for six books featuring Hawk and Fisher, the sword-wielding peace officers of the magic-filled town of Haven (later published in the UK by Headline as *NO HAVEN FOR THE GUILTY*, *DEVIL TAKE THE HINDMOST*, *THE GOD KILLER*, *VENGEANCE FOR A LONELY MAN* and *GUARD AGAINST DISHONOUR*). Since then a veritable 'Green' flood has swept through the British publishing industry, as he has turned his hand to film novelisations (*ROBIN HOOD*, *PRINCE OF THIEVES*), fantasy (*BLUE MOON RISING*, *BLOOD AND HONOUR*, *DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN*, *SHADOWS FALL*) and even science fiction - *MISTWORLD*, *GHOSTWORLD* and most recently the galaxy-spanning *DEATHSTALKER* trilogy, the second volume of which is published this year.

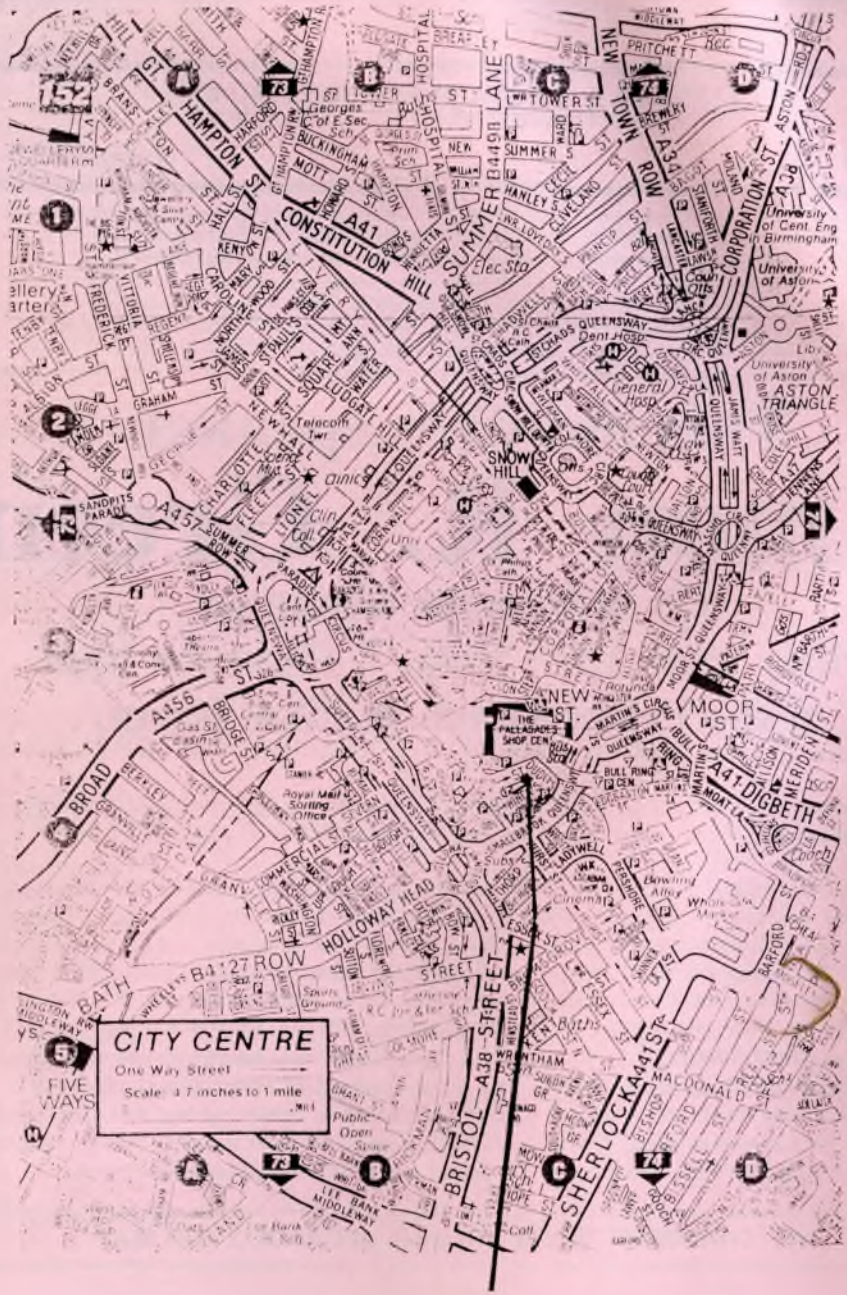
NB: CHANGE OF VENUE (AGAIN!), SEE PAGE 2 FOR MAP

The BSFG meets at 7.45pm on the 3rd Friday of every month (unless otherwise notified) in the upstairs function room of the Prince Hotel, Station Street in Birmingham city centre (formerly Stephenson's Hotel, between the Electric Cinema and the Bus Station).

The annual subscription rates (which include twelve copies of this newsletter and reduced price entry to meetings) are £10.00 per person, or £13.50 for 2 members at the same address.

Cheques etc. should be made payable to "the Birmingham Science Fiction Group" and sent to the Treasurer, Sarah Freakley, c/o 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, B66 4SH.

Book reviews, review copies and other contributions and enquiries regarding the Brum Group News to: Martin Tudor, Newsletter Editor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, off Clarkes Lane, Willenhall, WV13 1HX.



the Prince Hotel

Colophon

The contents of this issue are copyright 1996 the BSFG, on behalf of the contributors, to whom all rights revert on publication.

Personal opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the committee or the membership of the BSFG.

All text by Martin Tudor except where stated otherwise. This issue was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier. For details of WAVE's competitive prices contact Martin Tudor at the editorial address on the cover.

Many thanks this issue to BERNIE EVANS for producing the address labels and transferring files; SARAH FREAKLEY for producing the statistics on previous meetings; STEVE GREEN for his unsolicited (but very welcome) reviews; CHRIS MORGAN for his wedding report; CRITICAL WAVE for the news.

A Few Words From The Chairman

by Martin Tudor.

Despite the underwhelming numbers who attended (just 18), the EGM proved a lively meeting and some decisions were made - although even more weren't!

Both the minutes of this year's AGM and the Treasurer's Report from 1995/6 were accepted. It was decided to keep subscription rates the same for this year to facilitate the membership drive the committee is organising.

After considerable discussion the committee's proposal that the Group change the night of its meeting from the third Friday to the third Tuesday of each month (to facilitate finding a suitable venue in the city centre) was withdrawn. I withdrew the motion because a preliminary show of hands indicated that almost half of those who had made the effort to attend the EGM would be unable to attend meetings on a Tuesday (and most had problems with any night other than Friday).

This, of course, left the committee with the sticky problem of which of the two less than desirable venues we should go with.

Having eliminated the Queen's Head on Steelhouse Lane because of the noise from the disco, we were left with either the Queen's Tavern on Essex Street or the Prince Hotel on Station Street.

The main advantage of the Queen's Tavern was that it cost just £10.00; the main disadvantage was that it was crowded with just 18 people! The disadvantages of the Prince Hotel were the cost (now confirmed at £50.00 per night) and the slightly seedy clientele in the bar.

In order to facilitate our decision I asked our Treasurer, Sarah Freakley, to produce attendance figures for the last few years (these are reproduced later in this issue). Having examined these we discovered that 12 out of the last 16 meetings exceeded 20 people, and seven of those had 25+ attendees. (If we look further back meetings averaged far larger attendances - which is the situation we aim to return to this year!)

The committee decided that if we went to the Queen's Tavern we would effectively limit attendance at meetings to no more than 20-22 people. And that if we did attract new people to a meeting and they found a tiny, packed room with poor lighting and that they could only gain access by going behind the bar and negotiating a dark and very dodgy staircase - would they ever come back let alone join the group? We decided they wouldn't and ruled out the Queen's Tavern; but could we afford the Prince Hotel?

Close examination of the 1995 statistics show that income from attendances were around £832.50 (£632.50 from members and £210.00 from non-members). If the group had been paying £50.00 for the room back then the total cost pa for the room would've been £650.00 - leaving £182.50 for speaker's expenses. As the average cost per year for speaker's expenses is £177.74 this is, on paper at least, viable. (I have used the figures from 1994 {quite a cheap year} and 1995 {an expensive year} to arrive at this average.)

So, the new venue for the BSFG is the Prince Hotel in Station Street - at £50.00 per night. We'll see how it goes - please bring a friend!.

[Many thanks to Bernie Evans for stepping in at the last minute to Chair the first part of the EGM as our Legal Officer, Tim Stannard, arrived late.]

Wedding Report

by Chris Morgan.

ANNE GAY (the Brum Group's very own author of four sf novels) married STAN NICHOLLS (a London-based reviewer, journalist and author, mainly of sf and fantasy subjects) in Birmingham on Saturday 31 March. The service, conducted by a vicar, was at Carrs Lane United Reform Church, followed by a reception at the Three Magpies pub in Hall Green. Anne looked stunning in an ornate full-length satin dress with a veil, in magnolia or clotted cream (or another of those shades that's just off-white); she was attended by her daughter Marianne and a friend. Her Uncle Tom gave her away. His speech at the reception was lent a surreal twist by a barely audible commentary on the Grand National in the background. The guests were mainly family (from both sides), leaving room for very few sf people. But those who were present included David Gemmell (best man) and Freda Warrington (best vampire). Because of job commitments, it looks as if Anne and Stan will maintain separate houses for the time being, commuting at weekends to see each other.

Video Reviews

ZETA ONE [1969], Jezebel Video, Reviewed by Steve Green

Prior to its resurrection by Redemption's Europorn wing, this curious effort had the distinction of being the only 1960s British sf/fantasy release I'd yet to catch; I just wish filling that particular lacuna in my knowledge had been worth the effort.

"Inspired" by a series of short stories in the porn digest ZETA, the screenplay by Alistair McKenzie and director Michael Cort has no sooner introduced secret agent James Word (Robin

Hawdon; his word is his bond, geddit?) than it's consigned him to the sidelines, whilst a bizarre race of semi-naked amazons stand against the evil plans of arch-villains James Robertson Justice and Charles Hawtrey (real phone-in performances - the former couldn't even be bothered to hang around long enough to dub in his off-screen dialogue, whilst the latter looks like he just fell off the set of CARRY ON MARQUIS DE SADE).

For a film which depends so much upon its erotic content, the nudity is oddly coy; former Hi-Karate vixen Valerie Lyon manages to remain true to the title of her recent biography, EVERYTHING BUT THE NIPPLE, by affixing a fetching pair of purple CDs to her breasts, whilst the brief full-frontal appearance by putative Hammer starlet Yutte Stensgaard seems bizarrely out of place, as though spliced in from CONFESSIONS OF A SPACE DOXY. Softcore, and soft in the head.

Book Reviews

As I have only received ONE book review I have held over the column until next month. Will all those who owe reviews please pass them to me at this month's meeting. You know who you are!
- Martin Tudor.

Sometime during the next couple of months VERNON BROWN has to get a few cubic feet of material to the SF Foundation at Liverpool University. He would be grateful if anyone who could help with transport (expenses paid) would contact him as soon as possible.
(Vernon can be contacted via the editorial address.)

The Small Press Scene

Compiled by Steve Green.

[The following magazines received British distribution between mid-March and Easter.

Prices shown include postage; when names are given, cheques should be made out to the first identified.]

DRONE #23: Bimonthly newsletter of the Film & TV Model Club; tips on scratch-building the "missing" USS Enterprise; ufology; models include Sil from SPECIES, Boba Fett from THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, Ambassador G'Kar from BABYLON 5, the new MARS ATTACKS series; actor Clive Mantle interviewed. [Club membership costs £10.00 per year from Andrew Hall, 172 High Hope Street, Crook, Country Durham, DL15 9JA.]

EUROPEAN TRASH CINEMA #13: On-set report on Jean Rollin's TWO ORPHAN VAMPIRES; director Alex de la Islesiz and actor William Berger interviewed. [US\$9.00 from Craig Ledbetter, Post Office Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325, USA.]

THE EXPLOITATION JOURNAL Vol. 2, #4 [#20]: European witch-hunting movies; horror movie soundtracks; NIGHT OF DARK SHADOWS retrospective. [US\$5.50 from George Reis and Keith Crocker, 40 South Brush Drive, Valley Stream, NY 11581, USA.]

FANTASY COMMENTATOR #47/48: Sf historian E F Bleiler and poet A C Evans interviewed; essays on authors Ray Bradbury, Homer Eon Flint, Jules Verne, Henry S Whitehead and Fenton Ash, artist Roy Squires, wartime UK fandom (by Sam Moskowitz), rocket pioneer Philip Cleator and Voltaire's scientific detective, Zadig; poetry by Steve Eng, John Francis Haines, A C Evans, Andrew Darlington, Bruce Boston and Kenneth Bailey. [US\$11.50 from A Langley Searles, 48 Highland Circle, Bronxville, NY 11708-5909, USA.]

FRENZY #2: Director Kathryn Bigelow profiled; author Richard Laymon interviewed; eye-gouging horror films; director George Romero profiled; reviews; fiction by Noel Hannan, Tyler Endecott. [£2.00 from Neil Snowdon, 5 Wansbeck Cotts, Stakeford, Choppington, Northumberland, NE62 5JG.]

LET SLEEPING CORPSES LIE: Magazine-length critique by

Nigel Burrell of the 1974 Spanish/Italian zombie movie THE LIVING DEAD AT THE MANCHESTER MORGUE. [£4.50 from Midnight Media, The Barn, Upton Lodge, Hamerton Road, Upton, Cambridgeshire, PE17 5YA.]

HOLLYWOOD HORROR CLASSICS #4: "Black Lagoon" movie series special; book reviews; foyer photo spread; modelling hints. [US\$9.50 from Mike Gelino, 845 Edison Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, USA.]

THE MISSING LINK #5: Pre-1940s horror reviewed; extensive discussion of the relationship between Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi; profile of director Roland West. [£2.00 from Kip-Xool, 13 Lon Penllyn, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, CF4 6BZ.]

NIGHTDREAMS #4: Fiction by Rhys Hughes, Graeme Hurry, Peter Tennant, Anthony Cawood, Derek Fox, Simon Clark and D F Lewis, Jason Gould, Tom Baldwin, Caitlin Burke, Anthony Barker, Madeleine Finnegan. [£2.80 from Kirk King and Anthony Barker, 47 Stephens Road, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B76 2TS.]

PAPERBACKS, PULPS & COMICS #3: Sf movie novelizations; INTERZONE checklist; John Brunner tribute and bibliography; "Jeff Hawke" retro-spective; THE SPIDER appraised; early UK "girlie" publishers. [£3.95 from Zardoz Books, 20 Whitecroft, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 4DJ.]

PROHIBITED MATTER #5: "Feminism Versus Censorship" commentary; fiction and comics by Antoinette Ryder, Steve Carter, Rod Marsden, Mark McAuliffe, P J Roberts, D Sandy Nielsen, Don Boyd, Pauline Scarf, Barbara Custer, Geoff Jackson. [A\$5.00 from Rod Marsden, Post Office Box 19, Spit Junction, NSW 2088, Australia.]

SAMHAIN #55: On-set report from German thriller PREMUTOS; director Tsui Hark and Encore laser disc exec Stephen Haynes interviewed; extensive reviews. [£2.00 from 77 Exeter Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0LX.]

SQUANE'S JOURNAL #2: Mark Morris interview and profile; fiction by Mark Morris, Peter James, Simon Clark; columns by Steve Harris, Mark Chadbourn. [£2.50 from Simon Wady, 209 Beacon Road, Chatham, Kent, ME5 7BU.]

VIDEO JUNKIE #1: Toho's new Godzilla movies; Seattle side-show sleaze; 1970s Hammer horror; director Al Adamson profiled; Hong Kong action cinema. [US\$9.00 from Thomas T Timmons, Post Office Box 4051, Ventura, CA 93007, USA.]

VIOLENT SPECTRES #4: Final issue; fiction by Steve Harris, Paul Finch; small press column by Rick Cadger. [£1.75 from Adam Bradley, 28 Treaty Street, Islington, London, N1 0SY.]

The Jophan Report #92

I'm sure all in the Group would wish to offer congratulations to Group Chairman Martin Tudor and Helena Gough who were married in Dudley on 4 April and to authors Anne Gay and Stan Nicholls, who were married in Birmingham on 30 March (a report of the latter event appears elsewhere in this month's newsletter).

The United Fan Fund auction at Evolution, the 1996 National SF Convention held over the Easter weekend, raised £422.09 from the sale of goods and Robert Newman's haircut. The tradition of "sponsored" haircuts at UFF auctions was started last year by Nic Farey at Novacon 25, now popular pressure is building for it to be "topped" by cutting auctioneer Pam Wells' hair! Ms Wells was unavailable for comment.

Speaking of fan funds - don't forget that votes for this year's Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund race, between the Brum Group's Martin Tudor and SFX's M J 'Simo' Simpson, must reach the administrator, Abigail Frost by midnight on 4 May!

There was a distinct shortage of Awards at this year's Eastercon with the presentation of the British Science Fiction Association's awards being postponed due to "a technical hitch"; the Easter-

con awards being cancelled due to a total absence of nominations and the Ken McKintyre award being cancelled - again due to a total lack of nominations.

However, the Doc Weir award, won last year by Birmingham's very own Bernie Evans (who else would have her?), was awarded to Mark Plummer.

Having beaten the spoof "Testostercon" 107 to 10, Intuition will host the 1998 National British SF convention at the Piccadilly Jarvis Hotel in the city centre of Manchester. Featuring as American Guest of Honour Connie Willis, British GoH Ian McDonald and the Brum Group's own Chairman, Martin Tudor as Fan GoH!

Attending membership costs £25.00 until Novacon 26. Cheques payable to "Intuition" should be sent to: 43 Onslow Garden, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9QH.

SFX magazine has appealed for photographs of Bob Shaw, from any stage in his career. They are needed to run in the magazine with an interview with Bob, which was conducted in May 1995 by a local radio station but never broadcast. Please send any photos (with your name and address on the back) to: M J Simpson, SFX, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW. All photos will be returned.

The shortlist has been announced for the 1996 Arthur C Clarke Award, which offers £1000 to the best science fiction novel published in Britain in 1995. The final decision will be made this month by a panel of judges representing the British SF Association, the SF Foundation and the International Science Policy Foundation, chaired by administrator Paul Kincaid. Whittled down from 45, the six candidates are: Patricia Anthony's THE HAPPY POLICEMAN (New English Library), Stephen Baxter's THE TIMESHIPS (HarperCollins), Paul J McAuley's FAIRYLAND (Gollancz), Ken MacLeod's THE STAR FRACTION (Legend), Christopher Priest's THE PRESTIGE (Simon & Schuster) and Neal Stephenson's THE DIAMOND AGE (Viking). Previous winners were Margaret Atwood's THE HANDMAID'S

TALE (1987), George Turner's THE SEA AND SUMMER (1988), Rachel Pollack's UNQUENCHABLE FIRE (1989), Geoff Ryman's THE CHILD GARDEN (1990), Colin Greenland's TAKE BACK PLENTY (1991), Pat Cadigan's SYNERNERS (1992), Marge Piercy's BODY OF GLASS (1993), Jeff Noon's VURT (1994) and Pat Cadigan's FOOLS (1995).

Walter M Miller, author of the classic A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ (1960), committed suicide in January, aged 73. He had begun writing a sequel to LEIBOWITZ for Bantam, but was reportedly seeking a collaborator to complete it with him. Miller had been suffering from depression over long-term illness and the recent death of his wife.

Jack Finney, whose THE BODY SNATCHERS (1955) has been filmed three times, died on 14 November, aged 84. THE WOODROW WILSON DIME (1968) and TIME AND TIME AGAIN (1970), the latter his most famous sf novel, reflected Finney's interest in time travel.

The Black Lodge, the Birmingham's informal horror group, has decided to quit the Australian Bar, moving as of 7 May to the Midlands Arts Centre, next to Cannon Hill Park.

MEMORY SEED, published as an Orbit original paperback on 4 April, marks the sf debut of Stephen Palmer, who also pursues an interest in music with his own ambient band. A far-future eco-drama, it certainly impressed Orbit - they've scheduled his second novel for release next year.

Christopher Priest was presented with the £3000 James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his novel THE PRESTIGE at a ceremony in Edinburgh on 26 January. We hope to arrange for Chris to speak to the group in September.

Henderson Publishing is aiming to capture the imaginations of the young for sf and fantasy with its new "Funfax" line, short genre novels which slot into themed personal organizers. The first two in the series, Sam Godwin's BURNING

SECRET and Philip Steele's EYES OF THE SKULL, were released as £1.99 spring paperbacks, to tie in with the £5.99 Horror File and its selection of legends, scary facts and stickers for the 8-14 age group. "Branching out into fiction for the first time has brought a wealth of new writers to Henderson," says managing editor Lucy Bater, whose initial dozen releases include books by Paul Kersley, Stephen Bowkett, Francis Hendry, Christopher Carr, Ann Raffell, Barbara Topley-Hough and Peter Kennedy. "Watch this space: we plan to publish more fiction in the future."

The first six books in Christopher Pike's 12-book "Spooksville" sequence have been published in the US by Pocket Books. The series is aimed at the 8-12 age group and further instalments will appear each month; Hodder is handling the UK edition.

Peter Atkins' second novel, BIG THUNDER, is published by HarperCollins this month, as a £14.99 hardback. Other books on the company's spring schedule include: SUPERSTITIOUS by R L Stine (April, £14.99); THE GAP INTO RUIN, THIS DAY ALL GODS DIE by Stephen Donaldson (April, £15.99); WOLVES OF TIME, WANDERERS OF THE WOLFWAYS by William Horwood (May, £15.99); SERPENTWAR SAGA, RISE OF A MERCHANT PRINCE by Raymond E Feist (May, £9.99); FARSEER TRILOGY, ROYAL ASSASSIN by Robin Hobb (May, £14.99); MAGNIFICAT by Julian May (May, £15.99); SACRAMENT by Clive Barker (June, £15.99).

John Barnes has sold EARTH MADE OF GLASS, his sequel to A MILLION OPEN DOORS, to Caroline Oakley at Millennium, together with a short story collection, APOCALYPSES AND APOSTROPHES; the latter has also been sold to Patrick Nielsen Hayden at Tor, along with a novel, FINITY. Barnes has also collaborated with former astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin on ENCOUNTER WITH TIBET, due out in hardcover from Warner Aspect in July, and has sold a three-book series, CRUX OPS, to HarperPrism. Negotiations were handled by the San Pedro-based Ashley Grayson Literary Agency, which recently added veteran sf author A E van Vogt to its "stable".

Attendance Of Meetings Over Last Six Years.

Date	Speaker	Attendance		Total
		Members	Non-Members	
1990 Jan	AGM	22	0	22
Feb	Matt Irvine	33	9	42
Mar	Robert Rankin	36	6	42
Apr	Ramsey Campbell	26	5	31
May	Michael Guest	29	4	33
Jun	David Brin	38	11	49
Jul	Brian Aldiss	35	6	41
Aug	?	26	1	27
Sep	Bob Shaw	35	8	43
Oct	Tad Williams	19	3	22
Nov	Debate	31	0	31

Average Attendance 1990 35

1991 Jan	AGM	21	0	21
Feb	Richard Evans	32	6	38
Mar	Does The Team Think ?	23	2	25
Mar	Anne McCaffery	29	29	58
Apr	Grant Naylor	39	33	72
May	Graham Joyce	33	0	33
Jun	Paul McAuley	35	3	38
Jul	Twentycon - no regular meeting			
Aug	Freda Warrington	24	6	30
Sep	Anne Gay	32	4	36
Oct	Dave Hardy	29	3	32
Nov	Dan Simmons	21	8	29
Nov	Debate	28	2	30

Average Attendance 1991 37

1992 Jan	AGM	30	0	30
Feb	Greg Bear	28	3	31
Feb	John Brunner	30	0	30
Mar	David Gemmell	26	9	35
Apr	John Jarrold	27	3	30
May	Jack Cohen	34	0	34
May	Terry Pratchett	41	16	57
Jun	Does The Team Think ?	18	1	19
Jul	Ian Stewart	34	3	37
Aug	Pam Wells	24	0	24
Sep	Simon Green	26	0	26
Sep	Kim Stanley Robinson	21	7	28
Oct	Ian Watson	29	1	30
Nov	Debate	28	3	31

Average Attendance 1992 32

Date	Speaker	Attendance		Total
		Members	Non-Members	
1993 Jan	AGM	17	0	17
Jan	Tom Holt	21	0	21
Feb	Stephen Baxter	31	1	32
Mar	Bob Shaw	29	6	35
Apr	Joe Haldeman	15	4	19
Apr	Graham Joyce	22	4	26
May	Colin Greenland	25	1	26
Jun	Harry Harrison	30	2	32
Jun	Louise Cooper	15	3	18
Jul	Quiz	17	4	21
Aug	Garry Kilworth	23	0	23
Sep	Iain Banks	30	30	60
Oct	Brian Aldiss	27	3	30
Nov	Debate	32	1	33
		<u>Average Attendance 1993</u>		<u>27</u>
1994 Jan	AGM	25	0	25
Feb	Michael Scott Rohen	20	1	21
Mar	Worldcon Debate	18	2	20
Apr	Peter Hamilton	19	4	23
May	Gwyneth Jones	15	2	17
Jun	Amanda Baker & Dave Clements	24	1	25
Jul	Angus Wells	24	2	26
Aug	Chris Evans	23	4	27
Sep	Robert Holdstock	29	6	35
Oct	John Priest	22	7	29
Nov	Debate	22	1	23
		<u>Average Attendance 1994</u>		<u>25</u>
1995 Jan	Tom Holt	19	0	19
Jan	AGM	24	0	24
Feb	David Gemmell	26	3	29
Mar	Peter Hamilton	23	3	26
Apr	Storm Constantine	19	8	27
May	Bob Shaw	24	6	30
Jun	Iain Banks	20	16	36
Jun	(C Greenland) Ian Stewart	20	2	22
Jul	Anne Gay	27	4	31
Aug	(C Greenland) Dave Hardy	21	4	25
Sep	Mark Chadbourne	15	5	20
Oct	Robert Rankin	19	2	21
Nov	Quiz	16	3	19
		<u>Average Attendance 1995</u>		<u>25</u>
1996 Jan	AGM	22	0	22
Feb	Andrew Harman	20	2	22
Mar	EGM + Andy Salmon	18	0	18
		<u>Average Attendance 1996</u>		<u>21</u>
		<u>Average Attendance 1990-1992 (inclusive)</u>		<u>34</u>
		<u>Average Attendance 1993-1995 (inclusive)</u>		<u>26</u>
		<u>Average Attendance 1994-1995 (inclusive)</u>		<u>25</u>

* Please note all averages have been rounded to the nearest whole number

OCTOBER 1996

18, 19, 20th

The Moat House

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for all creative people

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4

THE British Costume Convention

Fantasy, S. F., Historical

FUN!

Attending £25 Supporting £5 Day attendance £10

Until 9th April then £30, £10 and £15

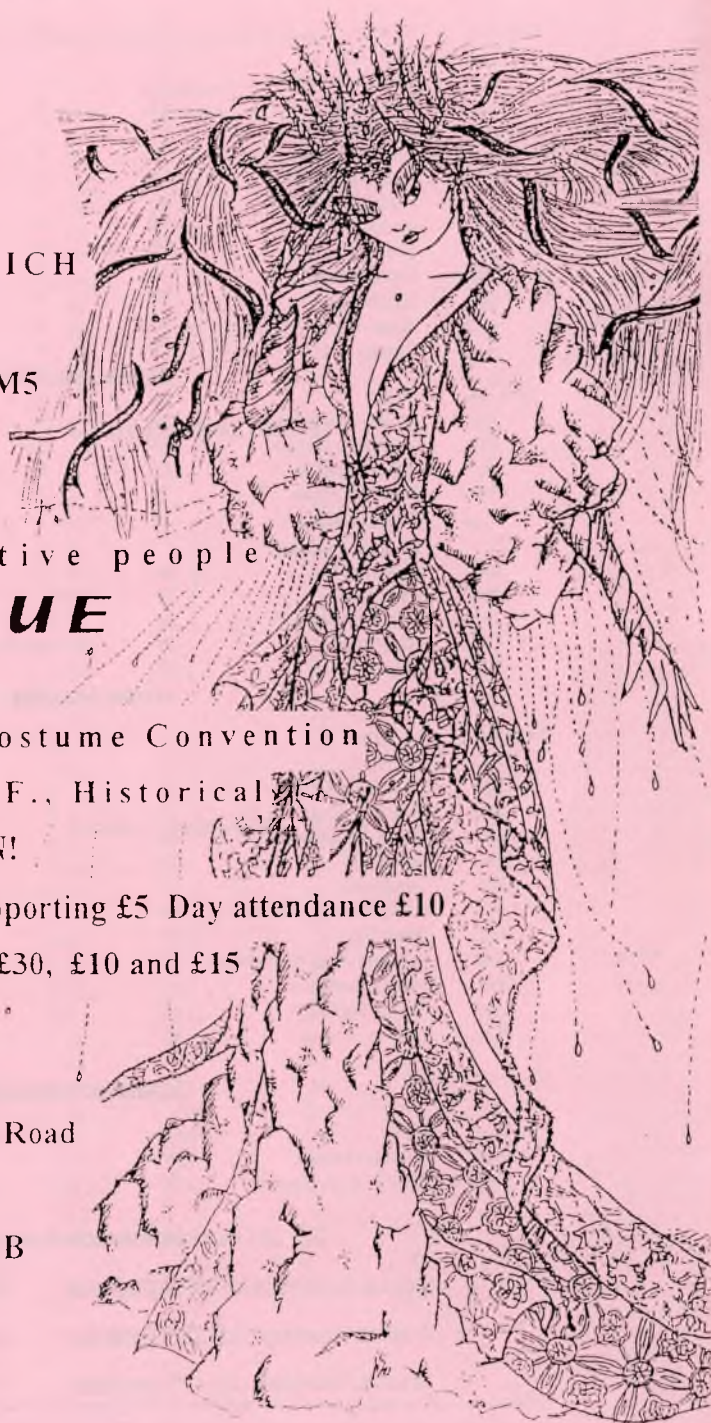
Contact:

Alan Cash

130, Hamstead Hall Road

Handsworth Wood

Birmingham B20 1JB



Novacon 26: 8-10 November 1996

Guest of Honour: David Gemmell

at the Hotel Ibis, Ladywell Walk (off Hurst Street), Birmingham.



-----Featuring-----

Guest Speakers Silly Games Films Quizzes
Late Bars Panel Discussions Live Music Lots of Fun
Programme Book and Limited Edition Souvenir Booklet

-----Brought to You By-----

Carol Morton, Chairman Chris Murphy, Operations Tony Morton, Registrations
Sarah Freakley, Programme Richard Standage, Treasurer Martin Tudor, Publications

-----The Cost?-----

£25.00 until 30th April 1996, probably rising thereafter

Cheques, made payable to "Novacon 26" should be sent to:
Tony Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS.

-----FREE!-----

A copy of the first Progress Report, featuring an article on the Drenai books by
Pauline Morgan - send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the above address

-----Please Note-----

Hotel Booking Forms Are Already Available!

26th - 29th July 1996

ALBACON

The 3rd Age of Fankind

Return to the Central Hotel, Glasgow for 4 days packed with the best science fiction on this planet. Videos, guest talks, quizzes, panels, art show, live role-playing games and so much more!

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Attending Membership £30 (£35 on the door)
Supporting Membership £15
(Special rates available for children and single day attendance)

Write to: ALBACON 96
Flat 1/2, 10 Atlas Rd, Glasgow G21 4TE

Officially twinned with ALBACON 96, Albany, New York State, USA

The Birmingham Science Fiction Group
is proud to present

Professor Lawrence Krauss

author of

THE PHYSICS OF STAR TREK

who will address the Group on
Wednesday 8th May, 7.45pm for 8pm,

at the Prince Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham city centre,
(behind New St. Station, near the Midland Red garage and the Electric Cinema)

Professor Krauss is Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics and Professor of Astronomy at Cases Western Reserve University in Ohio. He is also the author of FEAR OF PHYSICS: A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED and THE FIFTH ESSENCE: THE SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER IN THE UNIVERSE along with countless scientific articles. THE PHYSICS OF STAR TREK will be published by HarperCollins on 13th May, price £12.99, advance copies will be available at Professor Krauss' signing session in Waterstones, 24 High Street, Birmingham, from 1pm-2pm on the 8th May.

Visitors are welcome, call 0121-558-0997 for a FREE copy of our newsletter. If you wish to guarantee admittance advance tickets may be purchased: £2.50 for members, £3.75 for non-members (£2.00 for under 18s, full-time students and other unwaged, please bring proof of status as well as your ticket to the meeting). Complete the coupon below and send your cheque, made out to "The Birmingham Science Fiction Group", to: Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, off Clarkes Lane, Willenhall, WV13 1HX.

.....

Please send me tickets for the Professor Krauss meeting I enclose £

Name:

Address:

.....

Post-Evolution CRITICAL WAVE News Update

At Evolution, the 1996 National SF Convention held over the Easter weekend, there was a distinct shortage of Awards. The presentation of the British Science Fiction Association's awards was postponed due to "a technical hitch", and both the Ken McKintyre award and the Eastercon awards were cancelled due to a total absence of nominations. All of which meant that apart from Masquerade and raffle prizes the only presentation was the well-deserved Doc Weir award (for "unsung heroes" of fandom) received by Mark Plummer of the BSFA/ FoF/etc.

The United Fan Fund auction at Evolution raised £422.09 from the sale of goods and Robert Newman's haircut. The tradition of "sponsored" haircuts at UFF auctions was started last year by Nic Farey at Novacon 25, now popular pressure is building for it to be "topped" by cutting auctioneer Pam Wells' hair! Ms Wells was unavailable for comment.

Having beaten the spoof "Testostercon" by 107 to 10, Intuition will host the 1998 National British SF convention at the Piccadilly Jarvis Hotel in the city centre of Manchester. Featuring as American Guest of Honour Connie Willis, British GoH Ian McDonald and WAVE's own Martin Tudor as Fan GoH.

Attending membership costs £25.00 until Novacon 26. Cheques payable to "Intuition" should be sent to: 43 Onslow Garden, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9QH.

SFX magazine has appealed for photographs of Bob Shaw, from any stage in his career. They are needed to run in the magazine with an interview with Bob, which was conducted in May 1995 by a local radio station but never broadcast. Please send any photos (with your name and address on the back) to: M J Simpson, SFX, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW. All photos will be returned.

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