

May 1998

Issue 320

BRUM GROUP NEWS

Price: FREE

Price: FREE

The monthly newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

(Honorary Presidents: Brian W Aldiss and Harry Harrison)

Group Chair - Tony Morton, Secretary - Annie Woodford, Treasurer - Alan Woodford, Publicity Officer - Roy Peyton, Ordinary Member - Yvonne Rowse, Newsletter Editor & Novacon 28 Chair - Martin Tudor, Novacon 29 Chair - Carol Morton.

ROBERT HOLDSTOCK

**will address the BSFG on
Friday 8th May 1998, * from 7.45pm,
at the Britannia Hotel, New Street,
(entrance in Union Passageway).**

The meeting will be in one of the function rooms on the second floor. Drinks may be purchased from Harvey's Bar on the Mezzanine level and taken up to our room.

Harvey's also features the full menu of the Britannia group's renowned "Overstuffed Pizza Restaurant".

Admittance: Members £3.00 (£2.00 Unwaged), Non-Members £4.00 (£3.00 Unwaged). (Unwaged discounts are at the discretion of the Committee and will depend on satisfactory proof of status being produced.) (*VB: the second Friday of the month.)

The BSFG meets from 7pm in the Britannia Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, (entrance in Union Passageway), on the second Friday of each month (unless otherwise notified). The annual subscription rates (which include 12 copies of this newsletter and reduced price entry to formal meetings) are £15.00 per person, or £20.00 for 2 members at the same address. Cheques etc. should be made payable to "The Birmingham Science Fiction Group" and sent to: Alan Woodford, The Treasurer, 81 Harrold Road, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 0RL, (e-mail enquiries via: bsgf@bortas.demon.co.uk). Book reviews, review copies and other contributions and enquiries regarding the Brum Group News to: Martin Tudor, Newsletter Editor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail to martin@empties.demon.co.uk).

**This Month's Guest:
Robert Holdstock**



(c) 1995 Dick Jude

Born 1948, Robert Holdstock obtained an MSc in medical zoology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and worked from 1971-4 in medical research before becoming a full-time writer.

Best known for his "Mythago Wood" sequence of stories - Mythago Wood (1984), Lavondyss: Journey to an Unknown Region (1988), The Bone Forest (coll 1991) and The Fetch (1991) - he had earlier written several sf novels: Eye Among the Blind

(1976), Earthwind (1977) and Where Time Winds Blow (1981).

In addition to these (and numerous short stories and non-fiction works) he has written under the house names Ken Blake and Richard Kirk, and as Robert Black, Chris Carlsen, Steven Eisler and notably Robert Falcon, publishing at least 20 novels, novelizations and works of popular sf nonfiction. (*Thanks to the GROLIER MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SF for the above.*)

Colophon

The contents of this issue are copyright 1998 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. 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 to: ALAN & ANNE WOODFORD for producing the address labels and STEVE GREEN for news.

Special thanks to CYBER MEDIA's FIRST AID and UNINSTALLER - for saving my PC in time to get out this ensmallled issue!

Forthcoming Events

Forthcoming signing sessions at Andromeda, 2-5 Suffolk Street. For confirmation and/or further details call 0121 643 1999. (All at NOON unless otherwise stated):

MAY 9: ROBERT HOLDSTOCK (GATE OF IVORY, HarperCollins Voyager £16.99).

MAY 30: IAIN M BANKS (INVERSIONS), KEN MacLEOD (THE CASSINI DIVISION), SIMON R GREEN (DEATHSTALKER HONOUR).

JUNE 13: ANNE MCCAFFREY (FREEDOM'S CHALLENGE and MASTERHARPER OF PERN and special 30th anniversary edition of DRAGONFLIGHT)

JUNE 20: RAYMOND E FEIST (SHARDS OF A BROKEN CROWN), ROBERT RANKIN (DOWN TO THE VOODOO HANDBAG and THE BRENTFORD CHAINSTORE MASSACRE).

JULY 4: COLIN GREENLAND (MOTHER OF PLENTY).

Apology

Last month's newsletter listed the Iain Banks & Ken MacLeod talk at the Library Theatre as being on the 9th of May this should have been the 29th of May. Apologies for any confusion.

Please contact Rog Peyton on 0121 643 1999 for further information.

TAFF RESULTS

The Results of the 1998 TAFF Race are as follows:

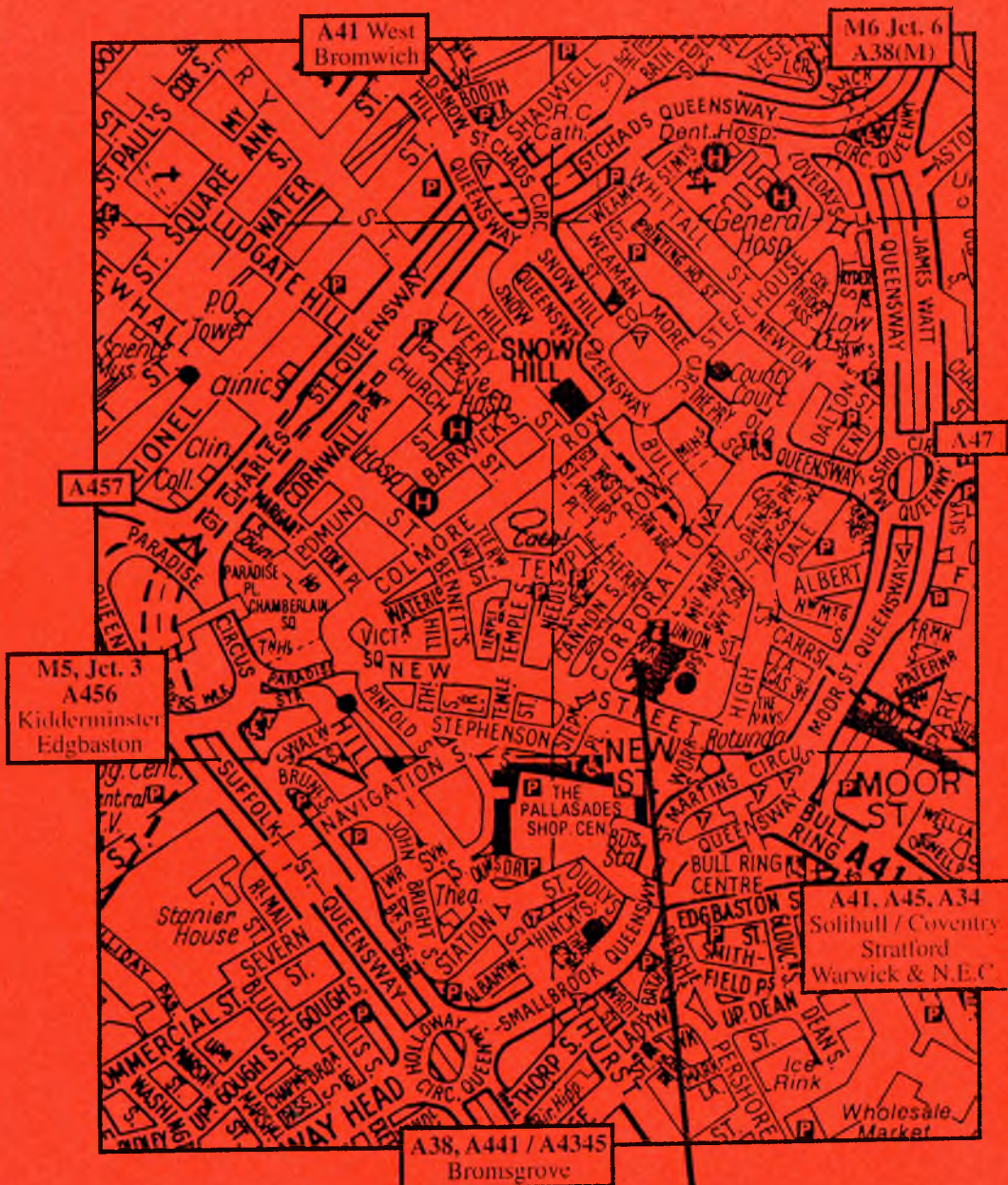
	1st Place	NA	Europe	Other
Bell	53	12	41	
Hardcastle	41	14	27	
Kincaid Speller	121	42	76	3
No Preference	8	7	1	
Total ballots	223	75	145	3

Maureen Kincaid Speller is thus the clear first-round winner, with an absolute majority of initial first-place votes. No eliminations and reassignments of second-place votes are required, since these cannot change the result.

Nebula Awards

Vonda N. McIntyre, Jerry Oltion, Nancy Kress and Jane Yolen were the winners of the 1997 Nebula Awards, which were announced Saturday, May 2, at a ceremony in Sante Fe, N.M. The awards are voted on annually by members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America who honour their peers in the categories of Best Novel, Best Novelette, Best Novella and Best Short Story. This year the SFWA also gave out two special awards, naming Poul Anderson a Grand Master and honouring Robin Wayne Bailey with the Service to SFWA Award.

This year's winners and categories are: BEST NOVEL *The Moon and the Sun*, by Vonda N. McIntyre; BEST NOVELLA *"Abandon in Place"*, by Jerry Oltion; BEST NOVELETTE *"The Flowers of Aulit Prison"*, by Nancy Kress; BEST SHORT STORY *"Sister Emily's Lightship"*, by Jane Yolen; GRAND MASTER Poul Anderson; SERVICE TO SFWA Robin Wayne Bailey.



BRITANNIA HOTEL
BIRMINGHAM