

1998 TAFF BALLOT: Europe to North America

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$2 or £1. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 1998 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to September 1996, and who contributes at least \$2 or £1 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline: Votes in this race must reach the administrators by midnight 25th April 1998.

Voting details: TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot. In order to win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes on both sides of the Atlantic, separately. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Thus candidates and their supporters will need to canvass fans on both sides of the pond. You may send your ballot to either administrator, but it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the Atlantic on which you reside. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum, but are important to the outcome of the race.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like 'No Award' in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates do not appeal. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no TAFF trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

Donations: TAFF gratefully accepts your freely-given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for over 40 years. TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes -- give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising -- barring Acts of God -- to travel to Bucconeer, the 56th Annual World Science Fiction Convention, in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 5-9 August 1998, if elected; and has provided signed nominations and a platform (overleaf).

Please read both sides of this ballot before voting. Send entire sheet as your vote.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

Phone number
or e-mail address: _____ **Signature:** _____
(we do not list or exchange this information)

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF. Please make cheques etc. payable to "Dan Steffan" or "Martin Tudor", not to "TAFF", and in the currency of the administrator's country. If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify your vote, please give, in the space below, the name and address of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate or their nominator) who is known to them and to whom you are known:

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Chris Bell

I attended Conspiracy '87 as a publisher, and fell for fandom. I've been to every Eastercon since, working my way up from winning the quiz and Masquerade at Follycon (1988) to running Membership and Hotel Liaison at Sou'Wester (1994) and Reconvene (1999) -- via fanzines, filk cons, Security, Ops, Author's Minder.... My only Tech contribution has been bringing the coffee. One can't do *everything*.

I don't know enough American fans: one American con isn't enough, I'm addicted, I need another fix. If I win TAFF I promise faithfully to write a trip report and to do my very best as administrator.

Nominators: Tim Broadribb, ~~Thog the Mighty~~ (aka Paul Barnett), Bruce Pelz, Andy Sawyer, Ben Yalow.

Bridget "Bug" Hardcastle

In 1990 I discovered fandom, the joys of con-going and lively conversation. Fanzines swiftly followed, publishing Obsessions on subjects including chocolate (something I still hold close to my heart - where it melts and leaves stains). I enjoy my fanac, I've chaired an Eastercon from an electric wheelchair (with attached eggwhisk and sink plunger), and, with Cackling Harpy fandom, run the FarberFund. I correspond with foreign fans by letter, e-mail, and pocsarcd, and would love to meet them and have interesting cross-cultural culinary experiences. I'm particularly enthusiastic about Bucconeer because of my rumoured pirate ancestry and fondness for John Waters movies!

Nominators: Andy Hooper, Robert Lichtman, Michael J "Simo" Simpson, Pam Wells, Walt Willis.

Maureen Kincaid Speller

I've spent eighteen years doing what fans do. I've been on convention committees, including several Mexicons and Intuition, the 1998 Eastercon, and I run the British Science Fiction Association. I frequent rec.arts.sf.fandom, write for apas and fanzines, and duplicate Banana Wings (my collection of duplicators is exceeded only by my legendary collection of earrings). My own fanzine, Snufkin's Bum, is appearing with increasing frequency.

My perception of fandom is primarily one of getting together with friends. With all the American friends I've made, I'd like to sample fandom US-style. I'll even show you my Gestetner earrings ...

Nominators: Claire Brialey, Christina Lake, Dave Langford, Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Geri Sullivan.

Please read and fill out both sides of this sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote. Do not detach this portion!

I vote for (rank 1, 2, 3 etc.):

- Chris Bell Bridget "Bug" Hardcastle Maureen Kincaid Speller
 Hold Over Funds No Preference

Send ballot & donation to:

Dan Steffan, 3804 S. 9th Street, Arlington, VA 22204, USA.

Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX, England.

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone doing so should substitute their name here:

Michael Abbott, John Dallman and Pam Wells