

# newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

APRIL/MAY 1978

NUMBER 17

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## AGM — AGM — AGM...

This newsletter is primarily devoted to discussions of the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting. It will be held on Sunday 28th May at BUSWELLS HOTEL on Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, as it has been in the past. The hours of the meeting will be from 2 PM to 5 PM. There will also be a regular meeting that night at the Parliament Inn at the usual time of 7:30 PM, without, however, any formal presentation. The May Journals should be available there.

The Agenda for the AGM shall be as follows:

- i.) Presentation and verification of Proxies (if any);
- ii.) Reports by the Committee Members are included in this Newsletter with one notable exception. The missing report will be presented, and there will be a short question and answer period if desired.
- iii.) Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be presented, discussed, and voted upon. It is requested that anyone having such proposals should mail them to the Secretary before the

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### Sunday 30th April:

As stated in the last newsletter, the April Meeting is to be a debate between the virtues of Science Fiction versus those of Fantasy. The exact motion of the debate has not yet been decided upon, but interested participants should contact the Secretary at 11 Templemore Ave., Rathgar, Dublin 6 so that teams can be set up and a preparatory meeting arranged. The April meeting will be held at 7:30 at the Parliament Inn.

### Sunday 28th May:

Two meetings this month, both on the same day. The first will be at Buswell's Hotel on Molesworth Street, Dublin 2; this will be the Annual General Meeting, and will be for MEMBERS ONLY. At 7:30, there will be the ordinary meeting for May at the Parliament Inn. No special function will occur, but there should be thoughts about what the Calendar of Events ought to be for 1978-1979; talk it over with your new Committee Members. Journals are expected to be available at this second meeting. Non-members will be welcome to the regular meeting, as is usual.

AGM - AGM - AGM... (Continued from page 1)

AGM so they can be typed up and distributed beforehand.

iv.) Recess to talk with the various candidates for the Committee, about their plans for 1978-1979.

v.) The election of the 1978-1979 Committee.

Persons will not be admitted to the AGM without an I.D. card, so if you are missing yours, you should write to the Secretary, Paddy O'Connell, at 11 Templemore Ave., Rathgar, Dublin 6. I.D. cards are in short supply right now so he'll be sending you a postcard verifying your eligibility to attend.

Also enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the ISFA Constitution as revised at the 1977 AGM, re-application forms, the reports of the Committee, and proxy forms for those members not electing to attend.

If you wish to run for the Committee, or want someone else to run, the deadline for nominations is 10 PM, 30 April 1978, at the location of the April meeting (Parliament Inn). Seconded nominations should be sent to the Secretary by registered post, along with the written consent of the nominee. Nominees should have enclosed a written description of the policy aims he or she intends to endorse should they be elected. Such a description should be short, as it will be typed up and distributed at the AGM. Comments should not be confined solely to criticism of previous Committee Members or policies, and should not contain libellous statements.

## RECENT MEETINGS

Our guest for the February meeting was Todd Johnson, son of patron Anne McCaffrey. He spoke to us on what life in a household supported by writing is like. Todd told us that his own first interest in SF came in 1964, when he was eight. (Space Cat of the famous Space Cat Trilogy.) Although his mother started publishing stories in 1953, Todd only belatedly realized what his Mum had to do with the business.

Anne's first introduction to John W. Campbell came in 1966 with the "Ship Who Mourned". It was he who encouraged her to expand "WeyrSearch" into a novella and further into Dragonrider in 1967. This was somewhat of a turning point in the household, for as we know, the McCaffrey Dragonseries has continued to grow in popularity and in complexity. Even with Dragonsong just released (and over 220,000 copies sold in four months) another book is in the typewriter already.

Other people have attempted to join on the bandwagon. Wrapping up the series has proved to be a problem which many have offered to solve for her. One idea from the outside was that another tapestry should be found, this time of old Earth. Adding in the temporal displacement, the trick would be that instead of Utur Pendragon, it would be Utur Perndragon who fathered King Arthur. End of suggestion.

Another incursion into the family's repose has been the problem of film rights. For reasons that need not be specified these rights have become the source of lucrative and annoying litigation. There is an Irish element in the problem, as P & T helped in arranging this situation.

Todd finished his talk with a sobering admonition for prospective young writers: the pay is often bad (Anne has been writing for over 25 years and still the economics are shaky) and the hard part isn't always to write excellent books by the score. Popularity, rather, is the key to success.

Needless to say, we will be inviting both Todd and Anne to speak to us again in the future.

The March meeting was held in our new location, the Parliament Inn on Parliament Street. Possibly as a result of our increasing publicity, the meeting was very well attended. There were some growing pains --- a small

shortage of chairs, less than perfect lighting, etc., but we have taken steps to continue to work on the location. There will be a fuller report on this in the Committee reports in this newsletter.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. Alun Llewellyn, who among his other talents is a good SF writer and a very engaging speaker. His presentation for the evening was entitled "Time Out Of Mind". It is very difficult indeed to give an adequate rendition of his talk here, but we'll try to hit the high spots.

Time itself as we usually think of it, Mr. Llewellyn pointed out, is merely an illusion, a construction out of our own imaginations which bears no relevance to the Galaxy, Universe, or Cosmos. Since the whole of SF enquiry is directed towards a serious study of the growth of the human mind, we often try to see how the different physical situations off of Earth could affect human behavior and thus our own evolution; of course, we can never really know where this might lead our descendants.

As an example of our current evolutionary parochialism, Mr. Llewellyn told of a puzzle: take six matches of functionally equal length. Arrange them without breaking to make four equilateral triangles. We'll print a diagram of the answer at the end of this Newsletter.

The trick to understanding scientific investigation is to realise that almost everything we know is a projection of reality onto our own limited ability to understand things in two dimensions: witness telescopes, photographs, microscopes, and the image one eye receives. Lightspeed forces us to admit that the very location, condition, and existence of the stars is in fact already history. Mr. Llewellyn revealed to us a very disturbing thought: could there in fact be just one galaxy, the others we see being distorted or delayed images of our previous locations and states?

The concept of time itself relates to that, for the apparent movement of the various stars could only be explained to early civilised man by observing the locations of the stars during the year relative to the observer's position. Thus the year and its multiples and subdivisions were developed. The concept of a right angle was necessary for true civilisation to evolve; this came from the effect of the sun's shadow at local apparent noon, point-as it would to the fixed star Polaris. From this came the concept of the four major compass points, alphabets, and the other trappings of civilisation.

Note that all this is illusory, based merely upon the observer's point of view. Yet from a primitive animal, mankind came to develop a highly sophisticated series of explanations for our own illusions. Now if we had had computers in the very early days, and had let them observe for us with an absence of our evolutionary biases, the computer would have told us that there was no one fixed star, no bowl of the heavens, and quite possibly that there was no particular cosmic significance to either ourselves or the apparent motion of the firmament.

This explains man.

From the rule of thumb that even if something is nonsense, it can be used if it works, we find many of our other conventional abstractions like beauty, love, and so on are also of our own imaginations. It is our job to give the abstraction of life itself a concrete workable definition. What kind of race need we evolve to to reach this point? We only know that maybe ideas and impossible fictions may become as real as time.

Mr. Llewellyn concluded his talk with a tantalizing glimpse of what his next to us may be.

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY (make corrections to your Booklists):

Asimov (Issac)  
Ashley (Mike)

Early Asimov Vols. 1 & 2  
SF Choice 77

Anderson (Poul)  
 Blish (James)  
 Clarke (A. C.)  
 Crichton (Michael)  
 Dick (P. K.)  
 Heinlein (Robert)  
 Harrison (Harry)

War with the Wing Men  
 Star Trek 2  
 Fallen Star  
 Earthlight  
 Andromeda Strain  
 Dr. Bloodmoney  
 The Unpleasant Profession of Jonathan Hoag  
 Nova 4  
 Year's Best SF '72 (w/ Aldiss)  
 Year's Best SF No. 7 (w/Aldiss)  
 Lifeboat (w/ G. Dickson)  
 Beyond Tomorrow  
 Starflight 3000  
 Machines and Men  
 Best of Clifford Simak  
 Open Prison

Knight (Damon)  
 Mackleworth (R. W.)  
 Roberts (Keith)  
 Wells (Angus) (Ed.)  
 White (James)

Correction: Members should scratch "(Over 16's)" from their Great Balls of Fire (Harry Harrison) on page 30. Any inadvertant failure at humour is regretted.

Recent donors: Penni Cambell, Brian Redmond, John McCarthy, M. J. McCann

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## Writers' Con 1978

Some details of the 1978 Science Fiction Writers' Convention are now available. It is going to be held in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire on 23d-25th June.

We interviewed Moira Harrison about the prospective attendees, and she told us that although most of the publishers have already signed up, the usual practice for writers is to wait until the last minute. Thus only a few have actually stated their intentions. These include James White, Donald and Nancy Wollheim, Gordon Dickson, Alfred Bester, Judith Blish (wife of the late James Blish), Robert Sheckley, John Brothman, and our own Alun Llewellyn. Unfortunately, Anne McCaffrey won't be able to make it, but rumor has it that Harry Harrison will be there.

Moira stressed to us that in fact, this conference is not considered to 'open to the public. It is a meeting of professional writers and publishers, who work together to try to coordinate the Supply and Demand for the trends over the next few years. This is accomplished through organised discussions and talks as well as less formal, though just as thoroughly professional groups.

Nevertheless, there are some possible items of interest to the ISFA. The bar in the Royal Marine is public, of course (and we all know what that means) and many publishers and the Alchemist's Head will have displays, presumably in the lobby.

In the past, the publishers have elicited a very favourable response to this type of conference. Needless to say, we of the ISFA wish Harry and his compatriots and colleagues the best of success.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO ISFA PUBLICATIONS IN THE YEAR 1977-1978: (Possibly incomplete- let us know if we left you out by accident; alphabetical listing)

Kerry Brady  
 Tony Cafolla  
 Criostan Drew  
 Michael Gardner  
 P. J. Goode  
 Jim Ivers

David Lass  
 Bobby McLaughlin  
 John McCarthy  
 Peter McEvoy  
 Paul McVeigh  
 Rita Meenan

Paddy O'Connell  
 Arthur O'Duffy  
 Frank Roche  
 Brendan Ryder  
 Adrian Smith  
 Anita Woods

(Coops!)

Robert Lane

Iaoisheath Nic Mhathuna  
Chris O'Connell

Fred Woods

## \*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEE'S REPORTS:

### LIBRARY CUSTODIAN'S REPORT

The Library grows slowly as more and more members donate books. Some changes were forced upon the Librarian owing to the number of books, viz.:

- i. A selection only is available at meetings;
- ii. A system of reserving books, both by post, and at meetings was established;
- iii. The levy of 10 p. per book was waived if a donation of an SF book (not already in the Library) is made;
- iv. The 50 p. levy (or 5 books donated) to join the Library was dropped as an incentive to join the Association.

Looking forward to the future, the Librarian hopes to see a permanent home for the Librarian in the Parliament Inn, and negotiations are presently in progress.

Communications: Contact has been maintained through our publications with:

- i. North Down S. F. Group;
- ii. British Fantasy Society;
- iii. Gerald Bishop of Aardvark House. The Librarian has initiated a deal with Gerald Bishop, whereby a most comprehensive publication from Aardvark House is available to members bi-monthly. This makes us the only association in Europe to publish this first class book list at the present moment.

Contact has been initiated to the following:

- i. British Science Fiction Association, through its chairman, Tom Jones, who has promised us an exchange of publications and news items;
- ii. Arena, a magazine published by Geoff Rippington in Britain;
- iii. Locus, a very fine American fanzine.
- iv. Cyclotron, a quarterly SF Writers' bulletin (Graham Poole, U.K.)

Book publishers have sent the occasional books for review, the most regular being Arrow Books and Granada publishers. In spite of many promises, lots of catalogues, etc., the majority of publishers to date are slow to send books for review.

### Librarian's financial statement 1978:

#### CREDIT

Library Charges: June '77	£1.30
(10 p's./book) July	2.50
Aug.	3.30
Sept.	3.20
Oct/Nov.	1.80
Dec.	1.50
Jan. '78	2.80
Feb/Mar.	1.60
April	1.50
	£ 19.50 19.50
Subscriptions (50 p's.)	2.00
Carried forward from '77	4.30
	£ 25.80

#### DEBIT

To John McCarthy for	£6.25
books purchased	
Banba Books	1.20
Stamps (in connection	
with book reviews, etc.)	2.00
	£ 9.45

NET CREDIT: £15.35

May I finally thank all members for their interest and support in the past year.

/s/ P. J. Goode, ISFA Librarian



## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Unfortunately, our accountant has fled to Zambia and the financial report is not yet available. It is expected that it will be, however, at the AGM. But don't worry---if he was using our funds, the conductor would have tossed him off of the 41A on the way to the airport.

## REPORT OF THE WRITERS' WORKSHOP SUBCOMMITTEE:

In the seven months of our existence we find we have adhered to most of the seven points agreed to at our first meeting last September 4th. These points briefly being:

- i. Mutual writing...small groups of people collaborating on one story. Some of our members have tried this and seem to have gained some benefit from it. Others no longer speak to one another. If nothing else the results have been interesting. (Ed's. note--one of the stories in the next Stargate is a collaboration between John McCarthy and Arthur C'Duffy.)
- ii. Irish flavoured science fiction writing, i.e. the Irish Dimension. As one of our members seems to have an almost inexhaustable fund of stories set in drinking establishments with the characters imbibing freely, I feel that we have this point covered. On a more serious note, a couple of our members do seem to be concentrating on this point. We await the results with interest. (Ed's. Note--look out for P. J. Goode's story and the one already aluded to above.)
- iii. Regular and open discussions on writing problems. This is done at almost every meeting.
- iv. Bringing along our work to read aloud for criticism. After an initial danger of turning into a mutual admiration society, we find we are now overcoming this problem and are now criticising each other's work quite freely.
- v. Seeking outside help to solve technical problems. This is one point we have not yet covered too successfully.
- vi. It is compulsory to bring along something to read out. This has been adhered to with a fair degree of success. Some people who attended at first out of curiosity are now writing pretty well. Some of our members have been published in the recent issue of Stargate. An exception to this rule was made for ISFA members who wished to attend our meetings as we realized that they had a lot of other commitments (Ed's. note--this group is not composed solely of ISFA members.) however, this has proved to be unnecessary as the Committee members who attend our meetings have proved to be among the most prolific in the group.
- vii. Anything goes. We decided that nothing written should be classed as impossible.

Our initial response was excellent and it was most gratifying to find people writing some excellent short stories after a short period. After seven months we have settled down to the people seriously interested in writing.

During our seven months we had some views on writing from Nick Emmet. ISFA members will remember his story which appeared in our own Stargate. Nick has had over fifty short stories published and many topical articles. He gave us some useful tips on various aspects of putting a story together, with emphasis on the "narrative voice". We did not all agree with his views, but that is part of being in the Writers' Workshop. If we could not agree to disagree we would never produce anything. One suggestion we all agreed would be most useful was that all members were to bring along extra copies to be passed around. This is difficult to implement as all members do not have access to typewriters and photocopies are expensive. We are trying to work on this problem. Suggestions gratefully accepted.

At the start our meetings were all held in Rathmines, but due to myself moving to Clondalkin last October, this led to difficulties over the Christmas season. In the near future, we hope to have a more stable premises and be back again on an even keel.

Most of our work to date has been short stories, though some of our members have gone in at the deep end and are on full-length novels. Some stories have been submitted to publishers and we await the results with great interest.

Stories published in the recent issue of Stargate which came from the Workshop's efforts were:

"Mine and Thine" by John McCarthy

"Genesis Revisited" by Rita Meehan.

John also produced some poetry, a talent few of us knew he possessed. In the next issue of Stargate it is planned that stories will appear by P. J. Goode, John McCarthy, Brendan Ryder, Jacob Struben, Rita Meehan, Arthur O'Duffy and Liam Farrell.

The Workshop is keen on reader's criticism so don't just talk among yourselves about the stories, sit down and drop us a line.

As usual all enquiries regarding the Workshop should be sent to:

Anita Woods

19 Moorfield Drive

Clondalkin, Co. Dublin.

/s/ Anita Woods, Writers' Workshop  
Subcommittee Chairman

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

As always, when asked to write a report I sit down and chew the end of my pen for a long while before my thoughts juggle themselves into a presentable order. Writing about the achievements of the Committee over the past year is a tall order which I shall try to fulfill by keeping to the point as much as possible.

After the success of the first year (and maybe a couple of failures) it would have been easy for the Committee to sit down on their laurels and let things ride. This did not happen because the second year was perhaps harder than the first. The pressure had to be kept up because like theatrical productions which hit downers on second nights, it would have been easy to feel depressed by the anticlimax of the second year. Many of the members who were not aware of the new look of the ISFA did not rejoin. As such 1977-1978 membership was disappointing but this did not deter us. There was work to be done and the increase in interest (in the ISFA) proves how this paid off. I think I am truthfully saying that for members who have stayed with us and the new members amongst you, you have not been too dissatisfied. There have been many improvements on year one and number three looks even brighter than the past year.

Continuing on from last year's chairmanship, I found the Colleagues who I had worked with before were more than capable in performing their respective duties, since we had a better idea of what was involved in not only keeping the organisation going but flourishing.

Paddy O'Connell as Secretary/Treasurer kept the primary wheels in motion even though he was faced with study and important examinations. The Postal Strike in Rathmines sorting office did not help him at all! First of all, some post was not being delivered to his house, and also outgoing mail was getting the Italian treatment (i.e. helping to pollute Dublin Bay). When we discovered this problem, we did our best to counteract it by printing again complete issues and remailing them in another district. During the Blackrock area strike we did our best to deliver all material by hand and/or followup by phone call at our own expense. In the face of all obstacles, Paddy has coped more than adequately with this particularly thankless task.

P. J. Goode has done Trojan work with the Library, which has grown and evolved at an enormous rate and has to be seen to be believed. The said Library is now so large that it cannot be carried to meetings as you are all aware. P. J. has reorganised the system for usage. This hopefully will expand the attractiveness of the facility and make the books available to our fellow members outside Dublin. P. J. has every faith in the new system and is more than capable of administering it.

Michael Gardner, who had done a lot of fine work in the area of graphic art and presentation found that his new job required so much of his time that he was unable to fulfill his duties for the ISFA, and so withdrew his services. John McCarthy and I did our best to look after these areas but greatly missed Michael's enthusiasm and professional knowledge. I don't think he would be too disappointed by our achievements. Indeed, John himself has now taken over full control of both our publications.

Bobby McLaughlin was also a great source of enthusiasm and good humour. She was instrumental in setting up this year's calendar of events and also attracting new and lapsed memberships. Unfortunately for us, Bobby had also to retire from office owing to job commitments which took her abroad with a degree of regularity, which handicapped her effectiveness in the latter part of the year. She has, however, promised to drop by and cheer us up occasionally.

Rita Meehan very kindly joined us during the year as a co-opted member and assumed many of Bobby's responsibilities. We must thank her for the increase in media publicity as she was responsible for the Evening Press and In Dublin articles which have appeared recently. As a result of these there has been an unprecedented increase in outside interest in the Association.

What can I say about John McCarthy that you don't already know? (I have to be nice because he's going to do the typing!) As you will notice later in this Newsletter, I have had to relinquish my position in the Committee and John has assumed the chairmanship. It has been a pleasure to be associated with and to work with him over the past year and I am sure that he will prove more than effective in the chair.

Those of you have kept your eyes open will know that there have been improvements in both of our publications. We have tried to aim at a more professional style even though the preparatory work has more than doubled, our efforts have been rewarded to some extent by the wonderful increase in member participation. People are coming out of their closets!, and sending in material for publication. This is fantastic! But we would like even more support in this area. If there is sufficient response in the creative slots of short stories, illustrations, reviews, and articles or letters of praise or condemnation, then maybe (and I do say maybe) the Journal could be expanded to three issues per year. By the way, extra copies of Stargate are now printed for sale in Ms. Cambell's Emporium and other interested shops and it is hoped that revenue from this will help improve the image of both the Journal and the Association.

Finally, we seem to have found the ideal location for our meetings. Fingers crossed, the Parliament Inn will help to gel the Association into an even stronger body and we must thank John McCarthy for his Herculean efforts in the initial and subsequent searches for a permanent home.

It only remains for me to wish my ex-colleagues on the Committee, you the members and the Irish Science Fiction Association all the best for the future. I will be continuing my membership and contributing if I can but my new job will take up more and more of my time as I assume responsibilities in the office. However, judging by the vigour, the ISFA is going to march greedily forward and become a force to be reckoned with. You never know, you might even get your Newsletters on time!!!

/s/ Robert Lane, Former Chairman of  
the ISFA



After Robert's handling of the internal workings of the Association, there is little left for me to do except to amplify some of his points.

With regard to external publicity and activities pursued by the Committee over the past year, we had two articles in the Evening Press and one write-up in In Dublin which was linked with the Alchemist's Head. We also were invited to participate in the Science & Technology Exhibition at the RDS in November. This was run mainly by Paddy O'Connell, who sacrificed a good bit of his year's leave to attend; other members also helped in the week-long exhibition. Several members were attracted directly or indirectly as a result of these activities. Also to promote both local and country membership, we placed display advertisements in the Limerick Leader, the Connaught Tribune, In Dublin, and Hibernia.

With respect to publications, I believe that Robert was correct in saying that the quality has increased markedly since May last. He neglected to say, however, that he used a great deal of his own holidays in the preparation of the Stargate which was issued in February. I think it is indicative of how successful this magazine has become when one considers that less than two months later enough material was assembled to permit publication (with some luck) by the day of the AGM.

I would be remiss if I weren't to tell you that a great deal of work goes into preparing publications; but this work is not confined solely to the typists and printers. You of the Membership have yourselves to thank for the doubtlessly increasing quality and volume of our material. To a large extent, this has been a bootstrap operation of formidable dimensions, but I don't personally believe that a Plateau has yet been reached. Keep your contributions flowing in.

One awkward point during the year was the search for suitable facilities for the ISFA. It is certainly true that the Falcon Inn was becoming rather crowded as attendance soared; this was one of the reasons we sought a new headquarters. The Man of Aran seemed to be adequate, but its unfortunate location handicapped its value to the ISFA.

The ultimate solution reached was the Parliament Inn, which I think we have been very lucky in acquiring as a home. The details of the arrangement are as follows: in return for the use of the room over the next year, we will redecorate the room ourselves (under the guidance of P. J. Goode, who does the same thing every day anyway. Talk about the busman's holiday!). There are certain other subsidiary arrangements which are still undergoing negotiation, but they generally hinge upon the type of impression we make on Mr. Frank Hyland, the Proprietor. Thus it is important to the Association that our conduct be exemplary in all respects, and that we avoid pushing him unwarrantedly into hurried and thus possibly unsatisfactory arrangements. A fuller report will have to wait until events evolve.

Finally, it must be admitted on behalf of the Committee that though 1977-1978 was a very good year for the ISFA, there have been mistakes and there is room for improvement. No one should try to deny that. With your continued fine support, the Committee for 1978-1979 should be able to make the ISFA an even more satisfying year for every member.

/s/ John McCarthy, Chairman

#### PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE:

- i.) Add to Article 17: "However, individuals must have been a member of the ISFA for at least two months preceding a General Meeting." The Committee believe that it is essential that participants have enough time to become deeply aware of the problems which have occurred in the past.
- ii.) Article 20 (entirely revised): "The first order of business at a General Meeting shall be the presentation and verification of proxies. The total amount of proxies outstanding shall then be announced to the meeting at large. Votes may be given personally or by proxy; in the event of a vote by count of hand, if the sum of the number of minority votes cast plus the number of prox-

ies presented exceeds or equals the number of majority votes cast, a poll shall automatically result. Therefore a count of hand votes must be announced." It is felt that this is a necessary and appropriate expansion of the current Article 20, and it is our intention to follow this procedure at the 1978 AGM. (iii.) Article 24 (entirely revised): "No member shall be eligible for membership on the Committee unless such member has been a member in good standing at least through the calendar year preceeding the date of the AGM, except when there is a unanimous poll vote in favour of extending special qualification to a member who might not meet this criteria." The Committee feels that it may prove in the interest of the ISFA to be able to co-opt or have run a person who may not qualify under the current rules if he has some special qualifications to contribute which make him worthy of the honor. iv.) Article 26: before (e), change "and" to "or".

## OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

### FEE CHANGES FOR MEMBERSHIP:

It is hereby announced that in accordance with Article 4(c) of the Constitution that members joining the ISFA for the first time after 30th November of any year need only pay £3.00 for membership through 31st May of the then-current membership year. Family membership of a full year's duration will cost £6.00 per year, both for new and renewed memberships, and £4.00 for families joining the ISFA for the first time after 30th November of any year.

There will be no change in the current £5.00 fee for new or renewal memberships for non-family memberships for a full year.

### COMMITTEE CHANGE:

Robert Lane has unfortunately resigned his position of Chairman of the ISFA because he felt that certain criticisms directed at his efforts tended to interfere with the absolute dedication required by this office.

John McCarthy has been selected by the Committee as the replacement (although he admits that it'll be hard to fill Robert's shoes) and will serve through the AGM.

The Committee wish to thank Robert for his long dedication to both the spirit of the ISFA as well as to the more mundane tasks of running the Association. Without a doubt, save for his work and selfless dedication, the ISFA would be no where near as successful as it has proven to be.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND CONTEST

In a move to increase the membership of the ISFA, the Committee hereby announce that any member who can recruit five (5) new members between now and the end of July will receive a refund of this year's membership fee. Committee members are not eligible for this offer. (After all, it's their job...)

Also, anyone who wishes to may enter a poster for the same purpose. You should design and place them yourselves, and bring them to the August meeting, where they will be judged on two criteria: artistic merit and the quantity of new members so attracted, so you should tell people on the poster to say who you are when they apply. Members so attracted may be counted toward the refund-for-five mentioned above.

Winners of the contest will receive a specially inscribed copy of something or other, I don't know what, but we'll find something.

### RECORDS AND TAPES

David Lass has reported that three new records/tapes of well-known SF and fantasy works are now available from Caedon. They include Isaac Asimov's "The Mayors" (Stock Number CDL 51527), The Banquet Scene from Frank Herbert's Dune (S.N. CDL 51555), and "Gvilans' Harp and Intracom" by U. LeGuin (S. N. CDL 51556) All cost £4.75 in London; we've also heard rumors that Penni might have something similar in stock, but this hasn't been confirmed.

## IRISH FILM THEATER SF MINI-SEASON

The Irish Film Theater located on Earlsfort Terrace has announced plans for showing five SF films in mid-June. They will be:

METROPOLIS (Director: Fritz Lang; Germany 1926) 19 June 6 PM/8:30 PM  
SILENT RUNNING (Director: D. Trumbull; USA 1971) 20 June 6 PM/8:30 PM  
SOLARIS (Director: Andrei Tarkovsky; USSR 1972) 21-25 June 5 PM/8 PM  
SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE (Director: G.R. Hill; USA '72) 26 June 6 PM/8:30 PM  
FOURBIN PROJECT (Director: J. Sargent; USA 1969) 27 June 6 PM/8:30 PM

To attend these shows you have to be a member of the IFT or a guest of a member (and only one guest is allowed per member). Interested members of the ISFA who are not already of the IFT should contact:

The Irish Film Theater  
St. Stephen's Green House  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2  
(Tel. 764207)

for more information. Only people over 18 are allowed in, it is thought.

### LETTER FROM A MEMBER

Dear sir;

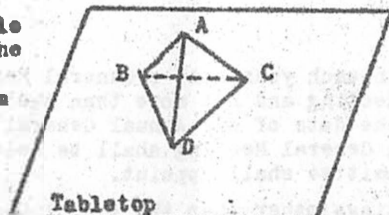
It has been some time since I have written, but here again are my words of wisdom. I was glad to get my issue of Stargate and have just finished it. So what did I think of it? As always, Robert's short introduction was no disappointment. I have promised myself to read some of the short stories and poems again. I didn't fancy any of the books mentioned in the book reviews, no reflection on you guys. Over-all I like my copy (you've all done very well). Perhaps some day in the far future I will get the nerve to submit something for consideration. I will not be up to any meetings in the near future, however I look forward to getting the newsletters. Pity they are not monthly.

This short letter may not be much in the way of "response" to your work on Stargate, etc. However, your work is appreciated, keep up the good work, fellas!

Yours truly,  
/s/ Peter McEvoy  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois

HERE IS THE ANSWER TO MR. LLEWELLYN'S PUZZLE ON PAGE 3:

Equilateral triangle  
BCD lies flat on the  
table top. Point A  
is equidistant from  
points B, C, & D.



All enquiries regarding the ISFA should be addressed to the Secretary,  
Paddy O'Connell, 11 Templemore Ave, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the organization shall be "The Irish Science Fiction Association" herein after referred to as the ISFA.
2. The ISFA shall be administered by a committee herein after referred to as the Committee.
3. The ISFA is a non-party-political, non-sectarian group having as its main aims and objectives:
  - (a) To facilitate the enjoyment of SF and its related genres, among its members
  - (b) To increase the awareness and status of science fiction in the country.
  - (c) The provision of a Newsletter every two months.
  - (d) The provision of a twice yearly magazine to which members are encouraged to contribute.
  - (e) The provision of an SF lending library.
  - (f) The provision of regular members' meetings and where possible to invite guest speakers to address the members on topics relating to science fiction.
  - (g) Any other activity acceptable to the Committee conducive to the furtherance of the main aims and objects of the ISFA.

## MEMBERS

4. (a) Any person wishing to become a member of the ISFA shall apply to the Secretary in writing and shall, as a condition of membership, accept the aims and objects of the organization.
- (b) No person under the age of eighteen years shall be admitted to membership without the written agreement of a parent or guardian.
- (c) Every member shall pay an annual subscription of an amount which shall be fixed by the Committee.
- (d) Membership of the ISFA shall run from June 1st to May 31st each year. Therefore if a person joins in May/June or any month thereafter (up to March 31st), membership will be due for renewal on the following June 1st. Where possible new members shall be issued with copies of all of that year's publications back-issues. Those who join the ISFA between April 1st and May 31st shall have full membership up to the following June 12 months.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

5. The ISFA shall in each year hold a General Meeting of members as its Annual General Meeting and not more than twelve (12) months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting and that of the next. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint.
6. All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.
7. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Committee or by written request to the Secretary, of twenty (20) members of the ISFA.
8. An Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting and : a meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by at least 21 days notice in writing to those entitled to receive such notice, specifying the place, day and hour of meeting, and the general nature of the business.

## PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

9. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of ten (10) members be present.
10. The Chairman of the ISFA shall preside at any General Meeting of the ISFA, or, if he is unwilling to act, or is not present, the Committee shall elect one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting. If a Committee member is unwilling to act the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
11. The Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place providing always that no business not already forming part of the Agenda of the meeting so adjourned be discussed at the re-convened meeting.
12. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded:
  - (a) by the Chairman
  - (b) by at least one (1) member present in person or by proxy, and, in the case of a poll, the Chairman shall appoint Tellers, nominated by those present at the meeting from among their number.
13. Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority vote, and recorded in a book of minutes which shall be kept by the Secretary.
14. Where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman of a meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
15. The Annual General Meeting shall consider Accounts, Reports from the Committee, Election of Committee members and Appointment of Auditors. All other business shall be deemed special business.
16. Alterations to this constitution shall be effected only by a Special Resolution of a General Meeting.

## VOTES OF MEMBERS

17. Every member of the ISFA shall have one vote.
18. No member of the ISFA shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all monies immediately payable by him to the ISFA have been paid.
19. No objection to the qualification of any voter shall be made except at the meeting at which the vote is being cast. The Chairman of the meeting shall decide finally and conclusively on the validity of the objection subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present.
20. Votes may be given either personally or by proxy.
21. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or as near thereto as circumstances permit and shall be sent with all notices of General Meetings to those entitled to receive such notices:

" THE IRISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION  
 I, .....  
 of .....  
 being a member of the ISFA, hereby  
 appoint .....  
 (being a member of the ISFA),  
 of .....  
 or failing him .....  
 (being a member of the ISFA) as my  
 proxy to vote for me on my behalf at  
 the (Annual or Extraordinary, as the  
 case may be) General Meeting to be  
 held on the ...day of ....., 19...  
 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed this ...day of ....., 19...

.....  
 This form is to be used \* in favour  
 of/against the resolution(s). Unless  
 otherwise instructed, the proxy will  
 vote as he thinks fit.

\* Strike out whichever is not desired "

22. The instrument appointing the proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.

#### THE COMMITTEE

23. Not more than six (6) members of the ISFA shall be elected either by personal vote or by proxy at the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA
24. No member of less than twelve (12) months' standing shall be eligible for election to the committee of the ISFA.
25. The Committee shall keep minutes of all meetings. A record shall be kept of (a) all appointments of officers made by the Committee (b) of the names of those present at each meeting and (c) of all resolutions and proceedings at each meeting.

#### DISQUALIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

26. The office of Committee Member shall be vacated if the member (a) Resigns his office in writing, (b) is convicted of an indictable offence, unless the Committee otherwise determines, (c) is adjudged Bankrupt, (d) over a period of time and for no specified reason fails to carry out the duties agreed to on membership of the Committee and (e) behaves in a manner detrimental to the aims and objects of the ISFA.
27. A Committee member shall vacate his office under (b), (c), (d), and (e) above on a majority decision of the Committee requesting him, in writing, to do so, and conveyed to him by the Secretary, and he shall have the right of appeal to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the ISFA called under Section 7 of this Constitution.

#### POWERS OF COMMITTEE

28. The Committee may, at its descretion, co-opt on a majority decision not more than four (4) persons to its membership - to serve until the following AGM. Those co-opted shall have no voting power within the Committee.



29. The Committee may, at its discretion, appoint (subject to the person's or persons' agreement) subcommittees for specific purposes. Any such subcommittees shall continue in office until dissolved by the Committee, and shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Committee and may co-opt to its own membership subject to the approval of the Committee. Subcommittees so formed shall keep records of all business transacted and shall submit reports to the Committee for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.
30. The chairman shall be, and a Committee member may be, ex officio, a member of any subcommittee formed under section 29 above.
31. The Committee may meet together to conduct business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by majority vote of those present. Where there is an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
32. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be no less than three (3).
33. As soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall meet and shall elect from its number a Chairman who will be the Chairman of the ISFA.
34. The Chairman, or his appointee, shall be chairman of all meetings of the Committee.
35. At the meeting at which the Committee shall elect the Chairman they shall also appoint from their number a Secretary, Financial Controller, Librarian and other such offices as they deem desirable. The Committee may likewise remove the persons so appointed from such office.
36. The Chairman, Secretary and Financial Controller shall serve for one year and the Librarian for two years and all four shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee on the expiry of their offices. All other Committee members, including those who may have been co-opted, shall retire after being in office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election.
37. The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept relating to (a) all sums of money received and expended by the ISFA and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place; (b) all sales and purchases of goods by the ISFA; (c) the assets and liabilities of the ISFA.
38. (a) Access to all records of all committees, subcommittees, AGMs and EGMs of the ISFA shall be available only to members of the Committee, who shall treat such records as wholly confidential. (For the purposes of this article "records" shall be taken to mean all correspondence, minutes of Committee meetings and any document in the possession of committees or subcommittees of the ISFA whether written or recorded electronically or by any other means.)  
(b) A financial statement shall be printed in every second issue of the Newsletter.

39. The Committee may, at its discretion, however, and within the bounds of confidentiality, determine the conditions and regulations under which the accounts, books and records of the ISFA shall be open to inspection of members not being committee members or to non-members.
  40. The Committee shall cause to be laid before the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA all profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, group accounts and reports.
  41. A copy of every balance sheet, report, etcetera as in Section 40 above shall be sent not less than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting to every member entitled to receive such.
  42. The auditor shall be a qualified accountant requested by the Committee, on behalf of the members of the Association, to certify the accounts of the Association.
  43. Notice of every General Meeting shall be given (a) to every member entitled to receive such notice and (b) to the Auditor. No other person shall be entitled to receive notices of General Meetings.
  44. The Committee may refuse to accept an application for Membership.
  45. Honorary Life Membership of the ISFA shall be offered subject to the approval of the majority of the members present at an AGM.
  46. The Library shall be administered by the Librarian subject to his discretion and within the approval of the Committee.
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"Just how many proxies are you representing?"