



ISSUE 5 – MONDAY MORNING – THE NEWSLETTER OF ORBITAL, THE 2008 EASTERCON

The Eastercon Forum

Eastercon has had to be rescued at least three times in recent years. Eastercon has no constitution (a topic discussed and rejected at previous Forums). Should there nevertheless be a pre-agreed framework, which automatically comes into play in cases of difficulties? Please come along and join in the discussion at 13.00 in Royal..

–Dave Lally (Eastercon Forum Chair)

LFF Auction

The League of Fan Funds auction on Sunday evening raised over £900, which is brilliant. thank you to everyone who came along and spent far more money than they meant to.

Thank you too to everyone who donated items to be sold, especially this year's incredibly generous Dealers' Room (who loaded Flick with bags of books, con memberships and other great stuff), Neil Gaiman and Mitch Benn (who sent sketches along for auction) and Paul Cornell (who provided the Best Tuckerisation Ever, raising over £100 to make Dr Plokta into a villain in an upcoming Marvel comic).

Finally, a big thank you to the Australia in 2010 Worldcon bid, which provided vast quantities of Australian tat for us to give away during the auction.

Does anyone want a koala? We seem to have some spare!

Poly people

There are so many polyamorous people at the con that they've decided to meet up, with their push-pins and coloured string, at 15.00 in Kempton.

Air Guitar

The **AlphaIndigoRomeo** band would be extremely grateful if anyone who took photos of us at our début performance at Saturday's disco could kindly email a copy to us at grikmeer@gmail.com. Many thanks and rock on!

George Hay Memorial Lecture

Several hundred fans packed the Commonwealth Hall to hear Professor David Southwood of the European Space Agency, and look at some amazing pictures from space, including the oldest galaxies. He spoke about the influence of Dan Dare in inspiring his interest in space, and claimed it was imagination which drove space scientists on. It was brilliant to hear about space exploration from an expert, and to view his pictures of Mars and Saturn.

–Jessica Yates

Lost

A beige windbreaker jacket disappeared from a chair outside the men's loo during a ten minute interval on Saturday. Going home to Sweden without it will be very cold, so if you have it please contact Anders or any of the Swedes, or bring it to ops.

PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Persephone Hazard, Chief Organisatrix, hasn't been seen, so **Flick** has taken over her newsletter while she's not looking. **Jan van't Ent** has continued to be wonderfully helpful with typing and technology wrangling, and **Helen** popped in at just the right time to proof read.

MONEY

The cash machine of this hotel seems to have run out of money, if you need some to put into the real ale bar or the dealer's room, your wallet can get filled up at the Marriott's cash machine.

OVERHEARD

We used to go looking for crash space; nowadays we go looking for crèche space!

FOR SALE

Membership to Denver Worldcon for £70; contact Michael Pargman.

PARKING

To get the agreed special rate for hotel parking, please visit Hotel Reception and ask (do not use the payment machines).

LOST

Two voices. If found, please return to Jaine Fenn and Abi Brown.

MORE CHARLIE

Anyone who wants to experience more of Charles Stross might want to consider Mecon 11 (29-31 August) in Belfast, where he is Guest of Honour.

BSFA Awards: voting breakdown

Total ballots cast: 122

Best novel. 103 votes	by	1st place	2nd rnd	3rd rnd	4th rnd	5th rnd
Alice in Sunderland	Brian Talbot	23	25	26	27	
Black Man	Richard Morgan	22	23	25	32	37
Brasyl	Ian McDonald	30	30	34	40	53
The Execution Channel	Ken MacLeod	14	15	17		
The Prefect	Alastair Reynolds	9	10			
The Yiddish Policemen's Union	Michael Chabon	5				
Best Short Fiction. 86 votes						
Lighting Out	Ken MacLeod	18	23	26	38	
Terminal	Chaz Brenchley	16	16	21		
The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate	Ted Chiang	25	31	32	34	
The Gift of Joy	Ian Whates	14	14			
The Sledge-Maker's Daughter	Alastair Reynolds	13				
Best Artwork. 82 votes						
Cracked World	Andy Bigwood	26	28	42		
HP Lovecraft in Britain	Les Edwards	27	28	36		
Lucas Flare	Richard Marchand	10				
Metal Dragon Year	Kenn Brown	19	26			
BSFA Fiftieth Anniversary Award. Best Novel of 1958. 92 votes						
A Case of Conscience	James Blish	27	28	30	33	37
Have Spacesuit, Will Travel	Robert A. Heinlein	19	20	21	25	
Non-Stop	Brian Aldiss	24	25	26	28	38
The Big Time	Fritz Leiber	12	13	13		
The Triumph of Time	James Blish	6	6			
Who?	Algis Budrys	4				

A display about the **origins of the BSFA** and its establishment at the 1958 Eastercon in Kettering can be found on the way to the real ale bar on the third floor. The BSFA is very grateful to Peter Weston (who created the display panels), Mark Plummer and other researchers.

Free Fanzines can also be found on the way to the real ale bar, providing a variety of views of fan history, opinion, speculation, rumour, and ruminations by SF fans about SF fans about SF, fandom, and anything else in their experience that they wanted to share with other fans. These are spare copies and will not be saved after the convention, unless you choose to take some home with you.

The Terminal Zone

A fine production of Andrew J. Wilson's play about Rod Serling. The contrast of David Wake as Serling-the-man and James Steel as Serling-the-presentation emphasized the difference between reality and what people see. The only down side to the production was the poor view for those in the back of the room, who missed nice touches such as the helmets used to produce a corpse's silhouette under the sheet at the end.

City developers of all ages

Come along to the 'SCRAP' Workshop (Kempton), where you can help to put the finishing touches to the City Of The Future, which will be on display in Newbury 1 from 14:00 on Monday.

There are two cities under construction: the Overcity, with trees and shining glass towers, and the Undercity, with rust, decay, mutants and any smog we can generate.

The Martian Race

Sparks tells us that his team has won, that he's in charge of all the teams, and that he rules the world. Evilily.