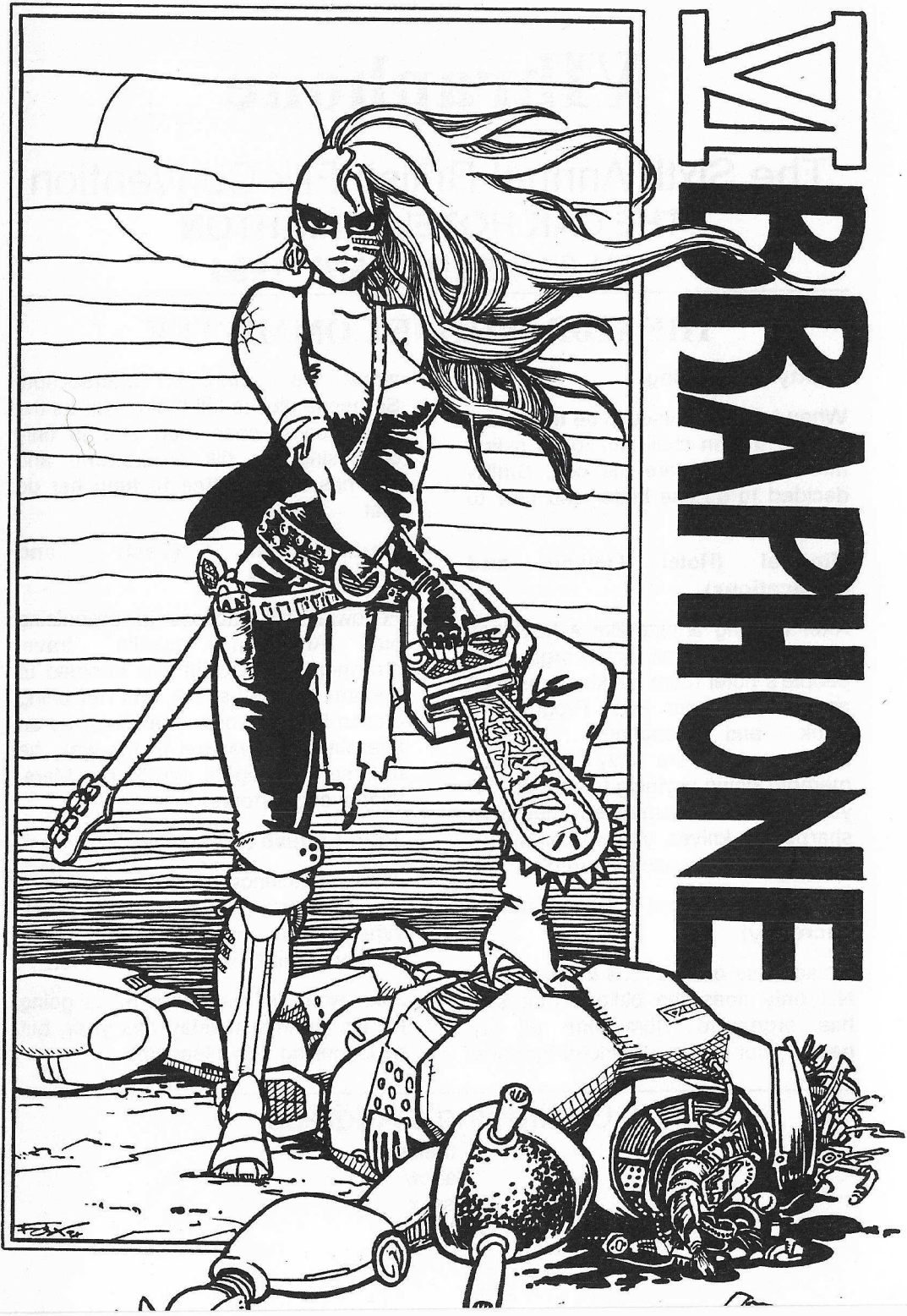


TRAPHONE



Vibraphone

The Sixth Annual British Filk Convention
THE OAK HOTEL, BRIGHTON
4TH-6TH FEBRUARY 1994

THE VIBRAPHONE COMMITTEE

Smitty (Chairbeing)

When told that it used to be traditional for the filkcon chairman to go skiing three weeks before the con, Smitty decided to go one better and flew to New Orleans.

Minstrel (Hotel Liaison and Publications)

After running around like a headless chicken for the past month organising people's hotel room bookings, as well as producing our PRs, Programme Book and Songbook, Minstrel believes he's the only committee member doing anything for this con. If you see other committee members sharpening knives, you will know that he has said this once too often.

Valerie Housden (Membership Secretary)

A sad case of delusions of grandeur. Not only does she believe that she has organised Vibraphone all by herself, but she is convinced that she

alone is running Intersection. Someone please tell that as far as the Worldcon is concerned she is only organising the filk programme and she has a committee to help her do that.

Martin GK (Tech and programming)

Following his success in organising our American guest's travel arrangements, Martin has decided to become a travel agent, and not being one to let a minor matter such as an interplanetary war get in his way, he has set his sights firmly on Mars. Watch out, Airtours!

John English (Treasurer)

John's efficiency at being treasurer has been consistant beyond belief. Whenever we asked him how much money we had, he answered "A lot."

John won't tell us where he is going for his summer holiday this year, but he is looking very pleased.

Chairbeing's Address

36 Tithelands
Harlow
Essex
CM19 5NA

OUR GUESTS OF HONOUR

TOM SMITH

Tom Smith is the last legitimate claimant to the throne of Alexander the Pretty Good. He was born in Detroit in 1960 under mysterious circumstances. (Kennedy was elected President, NASA got its act together and Churchill hiccupped inhaling two cigars.) His most vivid memories of childhood are: the Tigers winning the World series in 1968 (this is baseball, not a proper sport), the moon landing in 1969 and every single cigarette jingle ever made.

A freakish wave of radiation cascaded over this luckless sod in 1985, thereby causing him to pick up a guitar. He and the guitar had a lovely evening, but that was only the beginning.

He played guitar for several years, officially being acknowledged not an impending fatality in 1987. (Before then it was touch and go for a couple of cons.)

He has won entirely too many songwriting awards* for there not to be some kind of scam going on and spends way too much time with his guitar in his hands, muttering:

"Some day, my pretty, some day!"

Please do come up and say "Hello". He doesn't bite (although extended nibbling is available on request). If you really want to make his weekend, point to the Amiga stores.

Awards won by Tom Smith since 1988

- 1988 Pegasus Award for Best Media Song - "Superman's Sex Life Boogie"
- 1991 Pegasus Award for Best Performer
Pegasus Award for Best Writer/Composer
Pegasus Award for Best Filk Song - "A Boy and His Frog"
- 1992 Pegasus Award for Best Genre Crossover - "Return of the King"
- 1993 Pegasus Award for Best Performer

(Source: The Filking Times/Tom Smith)

TALIS KIMBERLEY

Left-handed, bespectacled, shorter than average, and much given to the wearing of hats: Talis Kimberley led a quiet life until she discovered filk, folk, and fandom, all at once. She has been writing songs steadily since then, and has been performing regularly solo since early 1992.

"I was reading all the right books," she says of the time before Cont2bile in 1990, "but as I've since heard numerous other people say - I thought I was the only one who actually wanted to dress in mediaeval

costume and go swordfighting in the woods..."

Talis' music and writing leave between them little time for swordplay these days, however; beside two-year old Corwin to occupy her hours, she is currently engaged in writing comic script for various people. With her partner Fox as artist she produces "20th Century Dryad" for Venue Magazine, and she has scripted two anthropomorph series - "Mechamice" and "Zen Zebras" - which are both hoped to appear professionally soon. (Astute readers of Filklöre will already be familiar with the Zebras - their first adventure is serialised there.)

Talis plays mandolin and guitar, and flute (when she isn't singing), and has finally finished building her harp; Saeren will make her first appearance at Vibraphone, and we shall see what Talis makes of thirty strings when six frequently have her muddled.

Over the past couple of years, she has performed at pageants and festivals (including Glastonbury), conventions, and numerous other events her songwriting workshops have recently taken her into local schools, and even a prison (They considered not letting her out, but the Committee interceded...) Talis has been heard on local and national radio, and has received airplay on the continent.

Talis writes songs rather faster than she is able to record them, but her "Almost Live at Dracon" (limited edition) proved popular, and was followed with a 3 track cassette "Uffington Hill". With the multi-talented Zander Nyronde, she produced "Ancient Sky/The Toad", a

joint Tarot Moon/Home Cooking production, and is keen to produce more material soon.

Her songs are also beginning to be recorded by other artists; Minstrel sings her "Still Catch The Tide" on his new cassette album "The Boy In The Room", and Kathy Mar has recorded four of her songs to date for American-release CDs on the Dandelion Digital labels.

Talis is grateful to the filk community for accepting her material despite the lamentably low quota of media-based songs she produces. "I average about one real filk - book inspired filk - and one supposedly humorous song a year," she grieves, "everything else is to do with my own obsessions." Talis draws inspiration from folklore and myth, but her songs also tell modern fables, and the magical and symbolic themes she explores have a wide appeal

This year Talis is hoping to work on the "Corwin and the Crows" project, and also on a new recording - whether of the old songs or the new she has yet to decide... then there are the harp, the comic writing, and the gigs, about any of which she will doubtless tell you if asked; she will also waffle on about as diverse topics as ancient Greece, flapjackery, the art of Kit Williams, M. C. Escher, or Remedios Varo; sundials, zebras, or lunchtime drama on Radio 4.

Chocolate is frequently successful in shutting her up, should the need arise.

FOX

Fox doesn't sing a great deal, and thankfully his songwriting output is sporadic at best. He has, however, got some very interesting toys on his bookshelves, is a big fan of Elsa Lanchester and Rumiko Takahashi, and has twin drawing boards; so he must be a professional artist.

A selected Discography.

Comics

REDFOX. 20 issues, 2 reprinted volumes

20TH CENTURY DRYAD. Ongoing strip in Venue Magazine. (Soon to be reprinted in Filklöre)

ZEN ZEBRAS (1). Strip in Filklöre issues 8 - 11

ZEN ZEBRAS (2). Monthly strip in forthcoming publication.

CHRONICLES OF ULLAH. 8 issue series commencing February 1994.

KISSING IN THE DARK (Co-writer with Tom Abba, who is also the artist) Monthly series for the same mag that's publishing ZEN ZEBRAS, but we don't know the title yet!

Filk Related Art

Con publication art for:

Contabile; Cont2bile; Treble Vlabophone

Covers for Filklöre issues 8 and 9

Tape Covers for:

The Oak, The Rowan and the Wild Rose by Mike Whitaker (2 covers)

Another Dawn by Mike Whitaker (Unpublished)

Dancing Flames by Phoenix

Pentatalics by Talis Kimberley

TAPING POLICY

We ask that you note the following conditions on recording at the convention:-

The recorder should be silent, without end of tape alarms, and be self powered, without trailing leads. Similarly, if using an external microphone, please keep it close to your chair, rather than laying trip wires for unsuspecting filkers!

Taping shall be for personal use only, and may not be sold, lent or duplicated, unless with the performer's (and song author's) express written permission.

If a performer requests that they should not be recorded, their wishes should be complied with without question or fuss.

Please remember that the performance is for the benefit of the audience, and that taping may only take place as long as it does not interfere with other filkers enjoyment. Requests of "Can you wait a minute while I change the tape" may not be made.

We will be making our own recording of the main events of the convention, with the aim of producing a compilation convention tape. We will also be videoing, and relaying the convention through to the dealer's room. No material will be used without the permission of the artists and copyright owners involved. However, if you object to being recorded, please advise the tech crew, preferably in advance of your performance.

Programme

Welcome to the programme section! We have tried to provide enough to give everyone a choice of what to do, whether it is watching, performing, learning or heckling! I am not trying to claim that we have managed the mythical "something for everyone" but we have certainly tried.

For those with no instrumental knowledge, we have absolute beginners' workshops in both guitar and bass. Singers can take advantage of a combined workshop on vocal technique and heckling (dealing with it, not giving it!) There are discussions on the production and management of recordings, the "War of the Worlds" project for Glasgow, and the FilkCon Charter. Also, thanks to (and paid for by) Her Majesty's Government, no less, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Mike Leask of the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford, to speak on the physics of music, with the aid of two blowtorches, an overhead projector and an 80-track CD player!

We have more performing slots than ever before, ranging from song slots to the special guest performances by Talis and Tom. And don't forget the concert and the command performance!

Friday

7pm Forest Suite.

Susan Booth and Jean Sheward kick off the convention programme with their version of Tuniversity Challenge for filkers!

8pm Forest Suite.

Straight into the music, with a song spot by Minstrel, Adam Heath and Martin GK, performing individually and in ensemble. Minstrel will be performing some tracks from his recent album, "The Boy in the Room", on sale from the convention desk with £1 to the Flying Filk Fund for every copy sold.

9pm Forest Suite.

The opening ceremony - Return to the Forbidden City with the Vibraphone committee!

9.30pm Forest Suite.

Never reluctant to plagiarise an idea, this is the Vibraphone version of the latest government policy. Gytha North and Sue Mason present "Bjak to Bjasiks" - taking filk back to its roots. Or lower. All new Vikings welcome.

10.30pm Forest Suite

Friday night live - the first filk circles of the con. A conventional circle in the Forest Suite, and the first experiment at chaos filk in the Elm room - try it and see!

Saturday

- 10am to 8pm The Elm room is open for anyone to hold circles, rehearse songs for the concert, try out new projects... use it as you will!
- 10am Forest Suite(large) Three diverse talents join in a song spot to start the morning - FanTom, Lawrence Dean and Colin Fine.
- 10am Forest Suite(small) "After the recording - what happens next?". A discussion panel that will cover a wide range of topics, including artwork, duplication, royalties and marketing. Roger Robinson presides, panel members include Minstrel, Talis Kimberley, Gytha North, and Leonard Zubkoff (who has recently started Dandelion Digital in the States, a company specialising in live filk recordings).
- 11am Forest Suite(large) Elaine Samuels is one of the more recent converts to filk, but has been performing and giving workshops around the folk circuit for some time. We asked her for a workshop on either vocal technique or dealing with heckling - she suggested combining the two! Audience participation required; if nothing else, come along and help heckle!
- 12pm Forest Suite(small) Last year, Vlabraphone became the first British FilkCon that was selected through a bidding session rather than an inner circle. We intend to continue this tradition. Roger Robinson introduces the bids for the seventh British Filk Convention.
- 1pm Larch room For anyone learning an instrument for the first time who wishes to accompany themselves, guitar is an obvious starting point. This is a workshop aimed at the absolute beginner, with the aim of teaching you in one hour enough to be able to play at the circle that night! Chris Croughton provides the tuition.
- 2pm-3.30pm Forest Suite The Concert. All submissions to Gytha North on the attached form by 11am Saturday morning, please. A chance to hear the old and the new, the serious and the absurd, the parody and the original. Gytha North comperes, and hopes no-one is going to sing any more songs about Gaffa tape.
- 3.30 - 4pm Interval. The bar is downstairs...

4pm - 5.30 Forest Suite

The concert continues. There's more!

6pm Forest Suite

Music Making and Musical Perception. Dr. Leask writes: "Music is such an ever-present part of everyday life that we take the whole process for granted. Yet there are many surprises, both in the way musical instruments work and in the way the ear/brain system deals with the consequent periodic fluctuations in the ambient air pressure. This talk will cover a range of topics, making use of some of the classic demonstrations that have been developed over the past twenty years or so."

6pm Larch room

The British Premiere of a new Anglo-American collaboration filk album, "Made by Magic". Zander Nyron, who performs on the album, introduces the first of two chances to hear it; it won't be released in Britain until the summer! Admission is £1, proceeds to the Flying Filk Fund.

7pm Forest Suite

The auction in aid of the Flying Filk Fund. This is the fund that has brought many filkers to Britain for the Filkcons over the years - Tom Smith is the latest. The auction contains items large and small - come along and see if anything takes your fancy. Roger Robinson is the auctioneer, and remember - nodding off can cost you a fortune!

7pm Larch room

Not all musical filkers have to play the guitar. Martin GK has been filking with a bass guitar for some time now, has played live with "Razing Arizona" and is a member of "Phoenix". This workshop is designed for people who have never touched a bass in their lives, and guarantees that you will be performing a filk song on bass that night (if you so wish!). No instrument required (unless you happen to have a bass around!)

8pm Forest Suite

The evening's music is opened with a song spot from three of the most experienced filkers around. Valerie Housden, Philip Allcock and Rhodri James entertain.

9pm Forest Suite

Vibraphone is delighted to welcome Tom Smith, all the way from Detroit. The possessor of a considerable repertoire and a wicked sense of humour, this promises to be a performance not to miss.

- 10.30pm Saturday night at the filkers. The second night of filk circles moves the chaos filk into the Forest Suite, within reach of the tech equipment if required. Those who think more conventionally are not forgotten - the Elm room is set aside for you.
- Sunday
- 10am -1pm The Elm room is once again available for rehearsing, practising or just plain filking!
- 10am Forest Suite(large) To start the morning, Zander Nyrond performs his own unique blend of the sublime and the ridiculous.
- 10am Forest Suite(small) Bitch Session. You've watched us run most of the convention by now - what should we have done differently, and what suggestions are there for next year? Minstrel and Martin GK take the flak.
- 11am Forest Suite(small) The project to perform Jeff Wayne's musical version of "The War of the Worlds" at the Glasgow Worldcon is moving into an advanced stage. There will be a presentation of the progress to date and the plans for the performance, together with a discussion on all aspects of the project. In particular, the methods of selecting the performers will be discussed. Volunteers are still needed to help with the show - come along and find out about it; and remember: "The chances of anything coming of this are a million to one against - but still they come!"
- 12pm Forest Suite(large) While governments argue about how far Europe is to be integrated, filkers have never had any real trouble. We have always ignored borders and languages! Juliane Honisch and Kerstin Droge are regular attendees at the British filkcons, and now present their own song spot.
- 12pm Forest Suite(small) As reported in Filklure, there are moves to put a charter together to ensure the continuation of the British Filk Conventions. The proposed charter is attached to this programme book; read it, work out what you would put in instead, and come and tell us. The panel is chaired by Rhodri James, author of the provisional charter - panel members include representatives of all the FilkCon committees so far.

- 1pm Larch room Another chance to hear "Made by Magic", in return for a donation to the flying filk fund.
- 2pm Forest Suite Talis Kimberley has been astounding filkers with her voice and her music since her first filkcon, and we are delighted to welcome her as British Guest of Honour. Her performance includes her own work on electric and acoustic instruments, and features Minstrel, Philip Allcock, and Zander Nyron as guests.
- 4pm Forest Suite The Filk Command performance. Sort of a request slot, only the requests get put in advance, which gives the performers a chance to remember/rewrite the chords and lyrics before they have to perform the song! All requests in to the convention desk on the attached form before 7pm Saturday, please - the Command Performance running order will be posted on Sunday morning.
- 4pm Larch room MIDI is THE musical buzzword, but what does it mean? Musical Instrument with Danger Inbuilt? Major Intestinal Duodenal Illness? Minstrel explains all, and shows how computers and MIDI can help all the way through the songwriting process, with help from Tom Smith and Adam Heath.
- 6pm Forest Suite Closing ceremony, and the Second British Filk Awards. The committee present the prizes for Best Serious Filk, Best Humorous Filk, Best New Filk first performed at Vibraphone, Best RipOff, Best Performance, and All-Time Great. All voting forms must be returned by Saturday lunchtime, with the exception of the Best New Filk first performed at Vibraphone - we will be accepting nominations for this until 4pm on Sunday.
- 8pmish Forest Suite Why do they call it the dead dog filk? Why not the dead cat filk? Or the dead parrot filk? Anyway, the extremely dead Tyranosaurus filk will wind up the sixth British Filk Convention in style!

Have fun!

HOTEL INFORMATION

Breakfast

Saturday/Sunday 7.00am - 11.00am
Monday 6.30am - 9.30am

Lunch

Bar snacks from 10.00am to 10.00pm
served in the bar.

Dinner

In Spinnaker's Restaurant: 6.30pm to
last orders at 10.00pm.

Bar

Open 10.00am - 2.00am
(Please note that non-residents will
not be served after 11.00pm, but may
have drinks purchased for them by
residents.

Residents may also obtain drinks
outside normal bar hours from room
service.

Useful internal telephone numbers:

Ext. 125 Ops Room
Ext. 123 Tech Desk

We regret that the hotel is unable to
issue multiple keys to sharers, and
therefore request you hand your key
in at reception when leaving the hotel
at any time.

However we have been assured that
should your sharer have the key, and
you cannot find them, the reception
will let people into their room at any
time on production of their registration
card. Please keep your card safe, and
see a committee member if you have
any problems regarding access to
your room.

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

At our request, the Oak Hotel has
allocated a number of twin rooms as
single occupancy. Please note that
these rooms may only be used by the
person registered to that room.
Unauthorised use of the room as a
twin at any time during the convention
will entitle the Hotel to charge for dual
occupancy for the whole weekend. If
you wish to change your single
occupancy to a twin share, please see
the hotel reception or a member of
the committee.

SMOKING

Please note that all function areas are
non-smoking, with the exception of
dealers at their table, and participants
during their programme item.

Smoking is, of course, permitted in
the downstairs lounge and bar areas
(except where otherwise indicated).

This rule will be enforced by the
committee, so please do not cause
embarrassment by smoking in non-
smoking areas.

FOOD & DRINK

Please do not bring food or drink
anywhere near the tech desk. Tech
crew on duty may, and most likely
will, do as they please. They're
insured if they break things, you're
not!

WHERE'S THE DCM?

A Duty Committee Member (DCM)
will be available at all times during
the convention, and may be
contacted by calling the ops room on
extension 125.

THE FILKCON CHARTER

There are now not one, but two proposed charters, as Robert preferred to rewrite the charter than amend Rhodri's original. We think they both have good points, and both have areas worth discussing. Come along and let us know what you think

FILKCON CHARTER version 1

Proposed by Rhodri James

Gentlefen, it has come to my attention that there are now sufficiently many different people interested in running filk conventions that we ought to have some mechanism for resolving arguments about who should run which convention. We do not as yet have a tradition of bidding for future conventions, except for the manner in which VIbraphone was 'bid' rather than simply announced, so I present the following filk of the Unicon charter for your consideration.

The FilkCon Charter

Insofar as it has been deemed a Good Thing¹ to perpetuate the Annual British Filk Convention, the following regulations are presented to distinguish these conventions from similar events:

1. They shall contain concerts and other programme items concerned with filk.
2. The site of the convention shall be decided at the previous Filk Con in a properly conducted business meeting or, failing this, by the steering committee.

(a) Business Meeting

- (i) All potential bidding committees who have made their presence known shall be invited to present their bid for a period not exceeding one half hour, except where only one bid exists in which case the time limit shall be set by the current Filk Con.
- (ii) Voting will be carried out by any reasonable means determined by the current Filk Con committee²
- (iii) Any other business made known to the chair of the Business Meeting shall be voted upon. The Business Meeting is not empowered to amend this charter, but may mandate the

¹The original reads "necessary" at this point, which is considered to be boring.

²The Unicon Charter originally specified voting by show of hands. This was amended for U-Nicon in Belfast to allow the committee to indulge in postal voting, since many regular attendees would not be able to make it over.

Steering Committee to meet and consider specific matters. If so directed, the Steering Committee shall report their conclusions at the Business Meeting at the following Filk Con. If no convention wins the bid, then a meeting of the Steering Committee is automatically mandated.³

(b) Steering Committee

- (i) This shall be responsible for the maintenance and amendment of this charter, the administration of excess funds should no convention win the bidding ceremony, and the arbitration of any disputes concerning the Filk Con.
- (ii) Each past and present Filk Con committee shall nominate one member of the Steering Committee.
- (iii) The acting chair of the Steering Committee shall be the member nominated by the current Filk Con, and their duties shall include: notifying Steering Committee members of transfer of excess funds from their convention⁴, notifying all potential bids of these regulations, providing for the Steering Committee and for the next Filk Con an accurate statement of accounts for their convention, and calling a meeting of the Steering Committee should it be so mandated by the Business Meeting.
- (iv) Voting membership of the Steering committee shall be the nominees of the last seven Filk Cons. A quorum shall consist of four voting members, and decisions shall be taken by a majority of the voting members, whether or not they are present at the voting meeting⁵. Meetings of the Steering Committee shall be notified at least one month in advance to all members of the Steering Committee whether or not they are voting members. Any member of the Steering Committee may call for a meeting at any time they deem there to be a need for such, subject to sufficient notice being given⁶.
- (v) Members of the Steering Committee may retire from the Steering Committee at their discretion. Voting members who

³An invention out of whole cloth, which basically lets the convention tell the Steering Committee to do something.

⁴Assuming that section 3 is included.

⁵In other words, at least four members of the Steering committee are required to make a decision, and at least four must vote the decision in order to pass it.

⁶The Unicon Charter requires that the Steering Committee to meet every year at the Con. In practise it has never done this, apart from the occasion on which the amendment was made, so it seems pointless to require it here.

retire shall be replaced by a nominee of the convention committee that nominated the retiring member; non-voting members who retire may be replaced by a nominee of the convention committee that nominated the retiring member; at the discretion of that committee⁷.

3. The surplus funds from a Filk Con shall be disposed of as follows:⁸
 - (a) Where the sum does not exceed £100⁹ the surplus shall be passed on within a reasonable time to the convention which wins the bid at the Business Meeting.
 - (b) Where the sum exceeds £100, 50% of the sum or £100, whichever is the greater, shall be passed on as in 3.a and the remainder shall be disposed of as the convention committee sees fit¹⁰.
 - (c) Where no convention bid has been successfully made for the coming year, the surplus funds shall be passed to the Steering Committee within a reasonable time.
4. The convention shall be insured:
 - (a) Against loss of, or damage to, its property and that for which it is legally responsible, including building, machinery, plant, fixtures and fittings provided to it by the property owners or management of the venue for the purpose of the convention.
 - (b) Against loss resulting from the cancellation, curtailment, postponement or abandonment in whole or in part of the convention, the non-appearance of a principal speaker or the failure of the convention to vacate the premises at the termination of its tenancy.
 - (c) So as to be indemnified for all sums which the committee shall be legally liable for arising from bodily injury and property damage to employees and the general public arising out of an occurrence in connection with the convention.
5. The convention committee shall undertake:
 - (a) To be liable for any deficit arising from their own convention.

⁷This is a get-out clause to keep the list of members down to manageable proportions.

Curiously the Unicon Charter makes no allowance for members retiring or resigning

⁸The purpose of transferring funds in this way is to give the next Filk Con a float with which to work. It could be argued that with the Flying Filk Fund in action, there is no need to transfer funds, and what a Filk Con does with its surplus is its own business. If this is what we think, then delete section 3 in its entirety and section 5.b as well.

⁹The original reads "£200"

¹⁰The original reads "in a manner beneficial to fandom, subject to the approval of the Steering Committee." I see no need to be so restrictive.

- (b) To cover all debts occurring in connection with any past Filk Con which no longer holds funds, providing such debts do not exceed the value of funds passed to them by the previous Filk Con or by the Steering Committee.
6. The convention committee shall agree to abide by the regulations presented in this document, and shall send a written undertaking to this effect (signed at minimum by the chair, secretary and treasurer of the convention, or equivalent posts) to each member of the Steering Committee. Ambiguities and disputes arising from these regulations shall be settled by the Steering Committee in light of common sense and with a view of the continuity of the Annual British Filk Conventions.

The following conventions are regarded as Filk Cons for the purposes of setting up this Charter:

**Contabile (Newbury) Con2bile (Peterborough) Treble (Eastbourne)
Fourplay (Coventry) Pentatonic (Weston-Super-Mare) VIbraphone (Brighton)**

FILKCON CHARTER version 2

Proposed by Robert Maughan

Insofar as it has been deemed a good thing to perpetuate the Annual British Filk convention, the following regulations are presented to distinguish these conventions from similar events.

1. They shall contain concerts and other programme items concerned with filk.
2. There shall be three bodies responsible for making decisions under this charter, the Business Meeting, the Convention Committee and the Steering Committee.

Business Meeting

3. A Business meeting shall be held at each filkcon.
4. All paid up members of the convention at which it is held are entitled to attend the Business Meeting.
5. The Business Meeting shall be responsible for:
 - a) amending this charter,
 - b) examining the bids to become the next filkcon committee,

- c) approving the annual report of the Steering Committee,
- d) recommending future courses of action to the Steering Committee
- e) discussing any other business that the membership feels relevant.

6. Procedures for conducting the Business Meeting and for voting shall be selected by the hosting convention's committee.

Convention Committee

7. To comply with this charter a Convention Committee must either be appointed by the previous convention's Business Meeting or failing that by the Steering Committee.
8. Each Convention Committee shall insure the Convention :
- a) against loss of, or damage to, its property and that for which it is legally responsible, including building, machinery, plant, fixtures and fittings provided to it by the property owners or management of the venue for the purposes of the convention.
 - b) against loss resulting from the cancellation, curtailment, postponement or abandonment in whole or part of the convention, the non-appearance of a principal speaker or the failure of the convention to vacate the premises at the termination of its tenancy.
 - c) so as to be indemnified for all sums which the committee shall be legally liable for arising from bodily injury and property damage to employees and the general public arising out of an occurrence at the convention.
9. The Convention Committee shall undertake:
- a) to be liable for any deficit arising from their own convention.
 - b) to cover all debts occurring in connection with any past Filkcon which no longer holds funds, providing such debts do not exceed the value of funds passed to them by the Steering Committee.
10. The Convention Committee shall :
- a) arrange for a recording master to be made using material selected from the performances at the convention. No material maybe used without the agreement of the performer(s). Performers selected must agree to waive their royalty payments from sales of this particular recording.
 - b) pass the recording master along with sufficient funds for an initial tape duplication of not less than one hundred tapes to the steering committee.
11. The surplus funds from a FilkCon shall be disposed of as follows:
- a) where the sum does not exceed £100 the surplus shall be passed on to within a reasonable time to the Steering Committee.

- b) Where the sum exceeds £100, 50% of the sum or £100, whichever is the greater, shall be passed on as in 11.a and the remainder shall be disposed of as the Convention Committee see fit.
- c) what ever the level of surplus or deficit the Convention Committee shall supply the steering committee with an accurate statement of their accounts.

12. The Convention Committee shall agree to abide by the regulations presented in this document and shall send a written undertaking to this effect (signed, at minimum, by the chair, secretary and treasurer of the convention, or equivalent posts) to the secretary of the Steering Committee.

Steering committee

13. Each past Filkcon committee shall nominate one of its members to the Steering Committee.
14. The nominees of the last seven FilkCons shall be considered voting members of the Committee.
15. The Steering Committee shall elect fromwithin its ranks a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers it deems necessary.
16. The Steering Committee shall meet not less than once a year and additional meetings may be called by any member by a written request to the secretary. All Committee members must be given not less than one months notice of all meetings.
17. At least four voting members must be present for a meeting of the Steering Committee to be quorate. At least four voting members must vote in favour of any decision taken by the Steering Committee.
18. When a voting member retires they shall be replaced by another member of the Convention Committee which nominated them. Non-voting members shall be replaced at the discretion of their nominating Convention Committee.
19. The Steering Committee is responsible for attempting to find a Convention Committee if a Business Meeting is unable to do so.
20. The Steering Committee is required to supply any bid committee which it is aware of with a copy of this charter.

21. The Steering Committee is responsible for the sale of Convention tapes and for any additional duplication expenses incurred after the initial one hundred paid for by the Convention Committee.
22. Funds held by the Steering Committee are to be spent as follows:
 - a) grants direct to FilkCons,
 - b) capital investment in equipment for use by FilkCons,
 - c) any other purpose the Steering Committee feels furthers Filk.
23. Ambiguities and disputes arising from this charter shall be settled by the Steering Committee in light of common sense and with a view to the traditions of Filk in general and the Annual British FilkCon in particular.

Fight is on to cut sci-fi warp factor

By Roger Highfield, Science Editor

SCIENCE fiction writers and fanatics are to be brought into contact with eminent researchers in a scheme to improve the public understanding of science announced yesterday by the Government.

The project is the idea of an Oxford University astrophysicist, Dr David Clements, who hopes it will help discourage SF writers from sending spaceships zooming around the galaxy in warp drive in defiance of Albert Einstein's cosmic speed limit.

SF buffs are clearly interested in science, "if not always well informed", said the Cabinet Office, which announced £750 backing for the project, one of 23 that yesterday received grants of up to £25,000 to promote science.

Dr Clements hopes to stimulate symbiosis between science fiction and fact by paying for scientists to lecture and join discussions at science fiction conventions.

Just as Jules Verne's novels inspired the pioneers of rocket theory, Tsiolkovsky, Oberth and Goddard — and later Wernher Von Braun, an architect of the American space programme — so their contributions to technology inspired filmmakers and authors.

And in a mutual cycle of

inspiration, SF has fed the imaginations of the scientists of tomorrow: Leo Szilard credits HG Wells's SF novel, *The World Set Free*, with at least a part of his inspiration that led to the atomic bomb.

Dr Clements, who organises science fiction conventions as a hobby, said the most recent example is virtual reality, which William Gibson wrote about in *Neuromancer* in the early 1980s. "It captured the imagination of many people."

The cash will pay for eminent scientists to attend the British national science fiction convention in Liverpool and Vibraphone, a convention on futuristic music dubbed "Filk" singing.

A public science information line, an interactive science centre in Northern Ireland, a science trial in Oxford, and leaflets on garden science were among the projects that successfully bid for funding of £100,000 set aside by the Office of Science and Technology to improve public understanding.

Among projects receiving £25,000 awards was "Schoolworks," an interactive exhibition for schools, and "A Sense of Science," a pilot video encouraging 14 to 16-year-olds to continue science education.

BITCH BOXES

In feudal times a fine was a sum of money paid for a privilege or privileges. As a fun way of raising money for the Flying Filk Fund, we have decided to revive the practice.

This is how it works. We all need to let off steam occasionally, whether about British Rail, traffic wardens or convention committees. Should you therefore at some point during the weekend feel the urge to sound off about anything, we invite you to pay your "fine" into one of the "Bitch Boxes" dotted around the convention area, and you may then bitch to your heart's content, (or until your credit runs out).

And remember the money is for a good cause.

Membership at 23.1.94

10	A Tom Abba	68	A Hitch	97	A Harry (The Bear) Sawatzki
59	A Lissa Allcock	63	A Juliane Honisch	28	A Alison Scott
60	A Phil Allcock	79	A Fraser Hotchkiss	29	A Mike Scott
108	A Anne	6	A Valerie Housden	32	A Jean Sheward
122	A Margaret Austin	61	A Sue Humphries	2	G Tom Smith
38	A Countess Axyliides			8	A Smitty
		109	A Tracy Jackman	34	A Kate Soley
76	A Kluggers the Barred	66	A Judith Jackson	89	A James Steel
58	A Andrew Barton	20	A Rhodri James	45	A Kathy Sterry
25	A D.J. Bass	103	A Chris Jones	36	A Barbara Stewart
18	A Ninja Bear	116	A June	35	A John Stewart
40	A Mary Beaird			117	A Susan
27	A Chris Bell	46	A Keris		
47	A David Bell	1	G Talis Kimberley	99	A Teddy
118	J Rachel Bell	51	A Tim Kirk	72	A Alice Terrell
33	A Michael Bernardi	71	A Pompino the Kregoyne	57	A Peter Tyers
88	A Jennifer Blackburn			49	A Madeleine Tyrrell
31	A Susan Booth	120	A Liz Leask	48	A Nick Tyrrell
44	A Alan Braggins	119	A Mike Leask		
82	A Paul Bristow	100	C Vivian Lord		
106	A Ben Brown			111	A Marion van der Voort
85	A Roger Burton-West	73	A The Magician	112	A Richard van der Voort
		26	A Marion	107	A Robert Vogel
104	A Giulia de Cesare	83	A Keith Martin		
124	A Vanessa Chan	53	A Sue Mason	21	A Peter Wareham
9	C Cub	56	A Melusine	17	C Karen Westhead
52	A Rafe Culpin	113	A Marcus	14	A Kathy Westhead
		101	A Marisa Merewood	15	A Mike Westhead
30	A Steve Davies	7	A Minstrel	16	J Peter Westhead
74	A Richard of Dawlish	77	A Shaun Murrant	92	A Anne Whitaker
69	A Robert Day			93	A Mike Whitaker
11	A Lawrence Dean	110	A Omega	121	A Andy Wilcox
50	A Miki Dennis				
98	A Clifford Dowding	87	A Clive Neate		
64	A Kerstin Drøge	67	A Helen Nemeth		
		115	A Nojay		
123	A Martin Easterbrook	42	A Gytha North		
5	A John English	39	A Zander Nyronnd		
84	T Etzel	81	S Zander's Dad		
		80	S Zander's Mum		
37	A FanTom				
70	A Colin Fine	55	A Nigel Parsons		
43	A Brian Flatt	86	A David Peek		
3	G FOX	23	A Jerome Perkins		
78	T Foxy				
22	A Gwen Funnell	114	A Rae		
		41	A Richard the Rampant		
4	A Martin GK	12	A Nicky Retallick		
90	A Clare Goodall	19	A Roger Robinson		
24	A Bruce Grant	54	A Tony Rogers		
62	A Linda Hansford	102	A Elaine Samuels		
105	A Hazel	75	A Teresa Sanders		
65	A Adam Heath				

A = Full Attending
 C = Child aged under 8
 G = Guest;
 J = Child aged 8-14
 S = Supporting
 T = Toy.