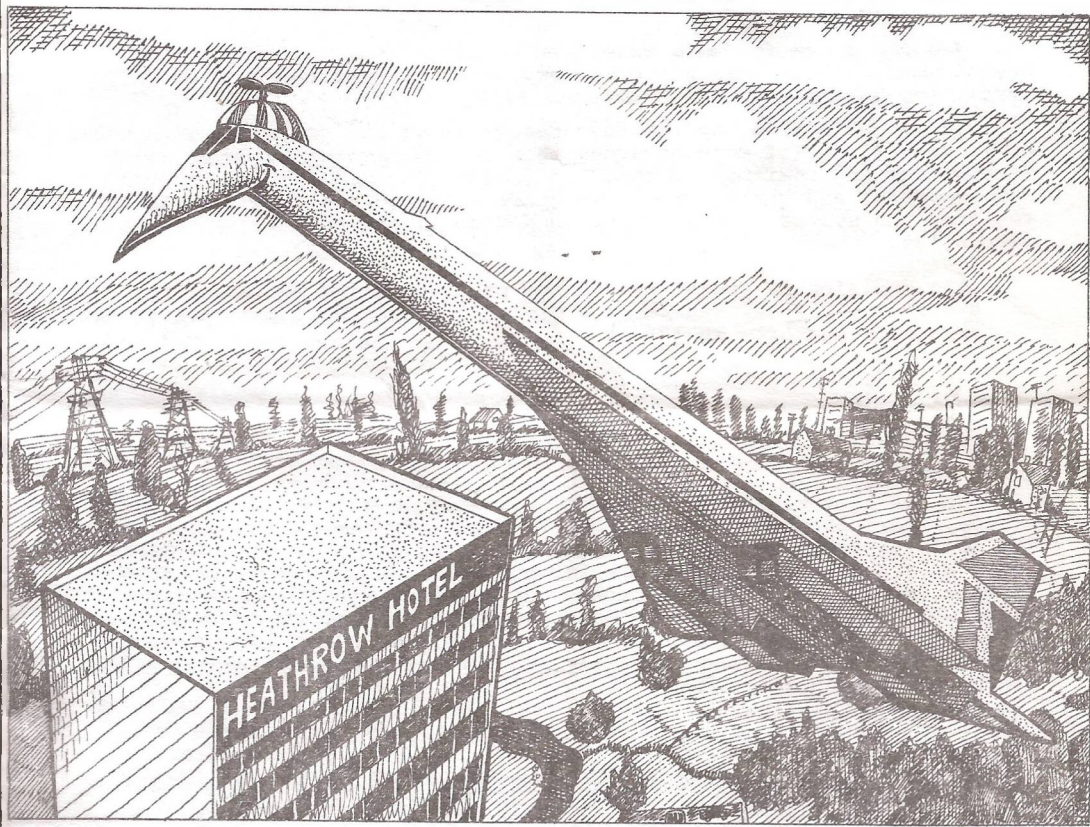


Skycon



Heathrow in '78

HEATHROW IS GREAT IN SEVENTY-EIGHT!

With the British Worldcon a virtual certainty for 1979, we want a really excellent Easter convention in '78.

The *Heathrow Hotel* on the northern edge of Heathrow Airport is the ideal place to hold it. It's a top-class hotel with all the facilities needed for a con and more---better, in fact, than any con hotel to date. The Heathrow Hotel was purpose built to combine one of the most advanced conference complexes in Europe and a luxury hotel within one building.

Access is easy: via the A4, the M4, the Underground, coach and bus services, and by air.

And the price for this excellent hotel? Not out of this world, not beyond your pockets, the price is less than this year, less than £14 (excluding VAT) per double room.

Skycon will also tap the vast resources of Ian Maule (Tynecon chairman), Stan Eling (of more Novacons than he can remember), Kevin Smith (accountant and chairman of this bid), Dave Langford ("Brilliant writer" - *D. Langford*) and Martin and Liese Hoare with their all-computerised registration system, now starring in Novacon 7 and soon to appear in Seacon '79.

The decision is yours; we and our pre-supporting members firmly believe that your best chance of a great Eastercon next year is to vote for *Skycon* ---Heathrow in '78.

THE HOTEL

Accommodation

We can book 500 rooms---all those available to the public---for *Skycon*; there should be no need to overflow into the many nearby hotels. The Heathrow Hotel is offering a huge discount which gives us a basic price of £13.80p (excluding VAT) for a double room. Every room has a private bathroom and shower, radio, colour television (some convention films will be shown over closed-circuit TV) and a refrigerated drinks dispenser operable by your room key only. *All* the rooms are air-conditioned, double-glazed and carefully soundproofed: Jumbos and Concordes can be seen but not heard.

Facilities

There are the usual restaurants and bars (from the *Flying Machine* bar you can watch planes taking silently off), a discotheque, and a special coffee and snack bar which is open 24 hours a day. Real Ale will be served at competitive prices. The swimming pool also has its own bar, not to mention a sauna and solarium.

The conference complex is even huger than an Eastercon demands. The Con Hall seats 550 people; there are smaller suites for Fan Room, Book Room, Art Show, BSFA room etc.; rooms can also be provided for wargamers, *Star Trek* and *Dr. Who* fans, and other strong minority interests---with perhaps a small cubby-hole for the *Space 1999* enthusiast. The *York Videotheatre* seats 262, is equipped to show anything on its 35 foot screen, and also has more facilities than we can use.

ACCESSIBILITY

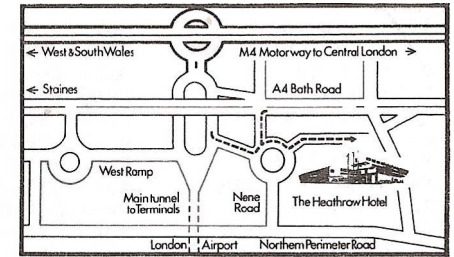
By road access is easy from the major western routes out of London; the M4 surely needs no introduction. The hotel is within a few yards of the A4 and is well signposted from the turn-off.

It has its own adjacent *free* car park with space for 600 cars---not something you can say about every hotel.

By rail you will be able to reach Heathrow on the Underground. At present London Transport runs a rail/coach service via the Piccadilly line; by 1978 the Piccadilly line will go right to Heathrow itself. In addition, there is a Railair link coach service from Reading General station to Heathrow.

Coach and bus services by the score use the A4 to and from central and west London. These include the British Airways coach from Victoria (you don't have to be flying anywhere to use it), the famous London Transport 81 bus and others not so famous, and the Heathrow Hotel's own free coach service from the West End.

By air, for all rich fans, it could hardly be easier. The hotel operates another free coach service to and from the three main terminals. Just don't get off at Gatwick!



LOCAL EATING-PLACES

Excellent though the hotel is, there is one difficulty. We do not have the two hundred adjacent restaurants which some fans seem to require. But those determined to eat out should note that within 15 minutes' walking distance are at least seven pubs: one of them also incorporates a restaurant and another a steakhouse, besides the usual line of "pub food". A sandwich bar and a Chinese takeaway are also close by. Endless streams of buses will convey more demanding con-goers the few miles to Hounslow, where there are restaurants by the dozen (maps will be provided). And remember the *free* hotel bus to and from the West End.

YOUR FRIENDLY COMMITTEE

KEVIN SMITH *Chairman/Treasurer*. Was asked to be *Chairperson* in deference to Women's Lib, but refused to undergo the operation. Would ruin his beard, he said.

DAVE LANGFORD *Publicity and Things*. Fanzine editor and slightly grimy pro. Will sign copies of *New Writings* at the drop of a fiver.

MARTIN HOARE *Registrations*. Possesses a computerised right arm programmed for lifting; has taken special responsibility for Real Ale.

LIESE HOARE *Secretary*. Martin's better one-third. Wishes it to be known that the rest of committee are token males.

DERMOT DOBSON is a master of electronics, pyrotechnics and boot polish. Gentle until provoked, as those not buying him a drink will find.

STAN ELING is responsible for many Novacons and a contrived joke about Eling Broadway, which we refuse to print.

KEITH OBORN ---What can be said about the talents of this man? Still does not look like John Brunner.

IAN MAULE ("*Wishy-washy*" - Greg Pickersgill) will run the Fan Room.

SKYCON PRE-SUPPORTING MEMBERS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Boris Lawrence | Dai Price | Tom Jones |
| Richard Wheatcroft | Chris Southern | Stephen Gould |
| Jerry Pike | Mike Damesick | Dave Raggett |
| Mike Gray | Andy Booth | Bill Bains |
| Dewi Williams | Jerry Turf | Chris Morgan |
| Mike Rohan | Debbie Hickenlooper | J.G.Heath |
| Andrew Slack | Katherine Sterry | T.R.Harrison |
| Demain-Griffiths | Keith Freeman | Martin Hatfield |
| Andrew Chapman | Graham Poole | Paul Ryan |
| Joseph Nicholas | Bruce Healy | Vernon Brown |
| John Mansfield | Colin Fine | Joyce Deeming |
| Brian Hampton | Coral Clarke | Zoe Hesse |
| Richard Hughes | Tim Illingworth | Tom Perry |
| Charles Partington | Chris Chivers | Phil Sargent |
| Ken Slater | Hazel Reynolds | Warren Heyes |
| Keith Plunkett | Mike Skelding | Dave Bridges |
| Chris Walton | Ian Robinson | Arlene Peyton |
| John Steward | Jim White | Lawrence Miller |
| Alan Sandercock | Roger Robinson | Malcolm Mortimer |
| Judy Mortimer | Charley Radley | Garry Kilworth |
| Annette Kilworth | Douglas Brainerd | A.R.Richardson |
| Jon Langford | Robert Day | Miri Rana |
| Irene Ambrose | Frank Arnold | Sue Chatfield |
| Allan Scott | David Wakelin | Christine Wakelin |
| Bryan Bird | Dave Hutchinson | Tom Shippey |

The people listed above are fully paid-up pre-supporting members of *Skycon*. Thanks!

Our thanks too for the blanket support of the Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham and Norwich SF groups; also for the encouragement of many other people throughout this country and elsewhere.

LAST WORDS

Skycon isn't asking for further pre-supporting memberships at Easter; please come to the Bidding Session instead and *vote* for us---which will cost you nothing! After we've won the bid we'll be taking "proper" supporting memberships at £2 (£1.50 for pre-supporting members)---cheques payable to *Skycon*, please.

If you miss us at Eastercon '77, supporting membership will also be available from:

SKYCON
5 ASTON CLOSE
PANGBOURNE
BERKS.
RG8 7LG
U.K.

8:30 PM

BREAKAWAY

WEDNESDAYS

"ADAM & EVE"

(on Bishopgate)

NORWICH
SCIENCE FICTION
SOCIETY

fellowtravellers welcome

details: Peter Tjers
"Milestones", Yelverton, Norwich.
(Framlingham Earl 2599)