

NOVACON 6

Progress Report Four

On the reverse of this report will be found the usual excuse for a map, guaranteed to bemuse any mundane, but I am sure that as hardened Con-goers it will cause you no trouble whatsoever. Give yourself plenty of time for getting lost on the way here, such travellers' misadventures make great conversation pieces and fond memories for our autumn years. Whether you are coming by rail, road, canal or just plain old hang-glider take care and have a good journey.

Well let's suppose you have arrived in Birmingham, what now? You will have checked your confirmation before leaving home, to see if you are booked into the Royal Angus or the Centre Hotel (if you arrive at New Street Station there is not much point in dragging all your gear over to the Angus if you're staying at the Centre). Arriving by rail, after passing the barrier take the escalator directly in front of you, turn left at the top and walk toward the fountain, go through the passage by the fountain and at the other end you will be at the head of a ramp leading down into New Street with a stairway at your left going down to Stephenson Street.

If you are bound for the Angus, take the stairs to Stephenson Street where you can get the No.101 Centre Bus which runs every 5 minutes up to 6p.m. at a standard fare of 2p. Ask to be put off at the Post & Mail building (marked on the map) and it is a short walk from there.

For the Centre Hotel, when you reach the top of the ramp go straight down it, turn right into New Street, cross the road, continue right past the shops and turn right into Union Passage where you will find the hotel entrance a little way in on the left.

If you arrive by bus to the Station Street Bus Station, turn right on leaving the station, walk along Station Street turning right at the first opening and climb the stairs to the next street level, cross the narrow road to your left, enter the forecourt of New Street Station on your left walk to your right inside the forecourt to locate the escalator then proceed as for rail arrival.

Arriving by car for the Angus, there is a car park next to the hotel entered by turning left immediately after the garage next to the hotel. The nearest parking to the Centre is in the New Street Station complex.

On arrival at the hotel, please book in at the reception desk. After you have your things in your room and wish to enter the Con, go to the registration desk on the 2nd floor of the Angus, obtain your bag and put on your badge. WEAR IT at all times during the convention (difficult for those who do not wear night attire) remembering it is in all our interests to prevent gate crashers. You may be refused drinks if not wearing it and will certainly be challenged by a committee member, please co-operate.

The Programme will commence at 8.00 P.M. The Book Room and Art Room will be setting up all day and the dealers will be open for business.

On Saturday afternoon a BBC TV team will be filming the Programme and general hubbub at one end of the lounge (they have promised not to knock over too many drinks). Some scenes will be used, next year, in a film on John Brunner.

Finally a last reminder, please bring auction material as we have little so far and you wouldn't want to deprive Rog Peyton of one of his greatest pleasures. If you have reserved space in the Art show please try to have your pictures at the con as early as possible on Friday 5th, before 5.30 if you can make it.

Till the Con,

Best

Stan Eling