



# League of Fan Funds

Eastercon 2010  
Newsletter number eight

*"My God, it's full of corridors! Still!"*

## What is the League of Fan Funds?

*Just the three of us...*

The League of Fan Funds is an umbrella organisation that co-ordinates the efforts of fannish fundraisers. Or at least that is the theory. We can often be seen around conventions. The LFF is currently looked after by **Claire Brialey**, **Alison Scott** and **Flick**. Many thanks to all of the lovely people (particularly Noel Collyer, Mike Scott and Mark Plummer) who also help us out, whether by storing boxes of stuff, hosting our website or donating money, time, transport, Stuff or other assistance.

*What's the money for?*

Various fan funds, including the **Transatlantic Fan Fund** and the **Going Under Fan Fund**.

*Where to find us*

You can find our website at <http://www.astralpole.org/> and you are welcome to email all three of us at [info@astralpole.org](mailto:info@astralpole.org) or individually with our first names ([alison@astralpole.org](mailto:alison@astralpole.org), etc). You probably don't have to be very alert to notice that [astralpole.org](http://astralpole.org) has been a bit broken, for which we're sorry. But we now have a shiny new website: go and look! You can also write to us: **Alison Scott** at 24 St Mary Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9RG; **Claire Brialey** at 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES; and **Flick** at 13 Collette Court, Eleanor Close, London SE16 6PW. Donations by cheque should be made payable to 'The League of Fan Funds'.

*In case you're wondering*

LFF is not a charity. If you'd like information on SF-related charities, please let us know.

*Donations*

As ever, we're happy to receive donations, whether of money or of items or personal services for the auction. Please let us know before the auction, if possible, and you can hand over items to be auctioned at the Cold Tonnage table in the dealers' room.

## We're all conned out...

Although it's only Easter, there seems to have been an awful lot of recent convention activity over the last few weeks, with Corflu and World Horror Convention happening in quick succession. Fortunately, none of us attempted to attend three conventions in three weeks, or you'd mostly find us tucked up in bed asleep at Eastercon!

Naturally, that would never do: depending on when you're reading this, we'll be busy with the auction, which starts on Saturday at 9:30pm and will be held in Royal C&D, or so the advance programme tells us.

Shortly before the auction, from 8-9pm, Steve Green, last year's TAFF delegate, will be giving part of his trip report in the form of a programme item. Steve has also started publishing chapters of his trip report in various fanzines, including *Argentus* and others that he'll be able to tell you about when you go to his programme item.

Anne and Brian, this year's TAFF delegates, about whom more later in this newsletter, will be appearing in some really cool programme items, including:

- Allergies: an Introduction to Our Current Understanding
- Junior Science Question Time
- The Genius of Alan Moore
- Comic Songs: Exploring the Genre
- Write a Doctor Who Song
- Stainless Steel Rats and Rogues - Why Do We Love Them?
- Alien Invasions: How Would They Attack? How Do We Defend?

## Fanfundery

**GUFF**

This year's GUFF race to attend AussieCon4 is well under way, with voting closing on Easter Monday. Please see Ang, if you haven't already been forced to vote at potato-point, or visit the Cold Tonnage table in the Dealers' Room to vote.

The candidates are James Shields and Douglas Spencer, and you can read the full versions of their platforms on the ballot form, but turn the page for a quick description!

## Money, money, money...

As of March 2010, the LFF has a little over £2,900 in the bank, £1,600 of which is the remaining balance in the £2,500 donation from Interaction, for long-term support of the fan funds.

In total, we took £600 at the auction at Eastercon 2009 and £150 at Novacon 2009. We've paid out £185 to TAFF and £200 to GUFF.

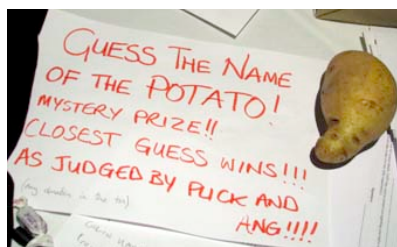
Right now, the LFF still has almost all of the Interaction donation as a long-term pot of money. That means that we're more able than usual to provide fannish causes with small grants or loans, so please let us know if you think we can help!

## Potato!

Although we took some money at Novacon through the sale of trip reports, other fanzines, T-shirts and some books at a sales table in the Dealers' room, the single most successful item was Flick and Ang's fabulous contest to Guess the Name of the Potato, in which cause you saps many generous fans donated around £100 to the LFF.

The winner of the contest was Kate Bodley, whose guess of "Albert Potato" was disturbingly close to the actual name, Alberto Potato and won her a fabulous packet of crisps.

There were some calls for the publication of the guesses, but many of them are rude, libelous, or just plain silly. Instead, in an attempt to educate our readers about the dangers of the fannish lifestyle, we present photographs of Alberto at Novacon, young, firm and studly:



and as he is today, wrinkled, soft, smelly and with a very silly hair style:



Alberto will be present at the LFF auction, if you wish you renew your acquaintance with him.

James has been attending conventions since stumbling into one in Dublin in 1991, and has since run conventions, published and written for fanzines, run fan clubs, built fan and convention websites, and helped with the YAFA programme at the 2005 Worldcon. He also likes Lego. A lot.

Douglas, besides being an SF fan, is also a fan of food, science, computers and bad puns. He's appeared in convention musicals, published fanzines, participated in many convention programme items over nearly twenty years, including getting his head shaved for charity. Did we mention the puns? He probably shouldn't have....

## TAFF

TAFF delegates Brian Gray and Anne KG Murphy are at Eastercon, ending a trip that's taken in Winchester, Poole, Cambridge, London, Edinburgh and Birmingham, and included both Corflu and a BSFA meeting.

He's a microbiologist. She's a human factors engineer. He's a gamemaster. She's a smof. They promised in their trip platform to use their powers only for good, but they've been talked out of such silliness by now. FluffCthulhu might have had something to do with that.

Do say hello, and feel free to buy Brian a pint. Anne, expecting their first Minion-to-be, has left Brian the responsibility of drinking for 2½, so please help him out.

In other TAFF news, a rare photo opportunity occurred at Corflu Cobalt, in Winchester, when Anne and Brian met thirteen previous TAFF winners.



From left to right: James Bacon (2004 westbound), Sue Mason (2000 w), Steve Stiles (1968 eastbound), Suzanne Tompkins (2005 e), Tobes Valois (2002 w), Avedon Carol (1983 e), Christina Lake (1988 w, joint), Peter Weston (1974 w), Rob Hansen (1984 w), Dave Langford (1980 w), Lilian Edwards (1988 w, joint), Brian Gray and Anne KG Murphy (2010 e, joint), Jeanne Bowman (1992 e) and Steve Green (2009 w).

## JETS

JETS was the Interaction-funded trip to the 2007 Japanese Worldcon. As it wasn't an ongoing fund, the only administrative requirement was that the winner produce a report on the trip. And, yes, we'd love to know when Chris O'Shea is going to get it out, too. No, we don't have a clue. Why don't you go and nag him?