

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENCE FICTION CLUB.

'Calling S.F. Fans' was the heading of a letter in the Sunday Times of April 13, 1969. The letter was from Tex Cooper, who was interested in starting a Science Fiction club in South Africa. All interested persons were requested to contact him.

Thirty-seven people replied showing that there was a need for an S.F. club. A meeting was held on June 6, 1969 at the home of Tex Cooper in Pretoria. Nine people attended and apologies were received from a further nine. As the meeting was limited to people from Pretoria and the Reef, because of distance, this was a good attendance.

At the meeting an important decision was taken: To start an S.F. club. A temporary Committee was elected and the following suggestions adopted: i. A newsletter would be published quarterly or sooner. ii. Subscriptions were fixed. iii. A Lending Library should be started. iv. The club would affiliate with the National Fantasy Fan Federation in America, which is the largest S.F. fan club, known as N3F.

A thank-you letter was written to the Sunday Times and was printed under the heading 'S.F. Club Formed.' in the issue of June 29, 1969. This drew response from a further twenty-five persons who had not seen the first letter.

Committee meetings were held and an Application Form was drawn up and sent to everyone who had enquired about the club. Thirty of the sixty-four enquirers joined the Club.

The Newsletter, which has become a regular feature of the club, was started and members were asked to vote on a name for the club. It was also proposed to hold the first Annual General Meeting on October 3, 1969 at the home of Simon Scott in Johannesburg.

The A.G.M. was well attended. The name of the Club was announced. It is S.F.S.A. At the A.G.M. the following points were discussed: i. Finance - the Club was solvent. ii. The Constitution - this was drawn up by the Committee and was accepted. iii. The Emblem - a competition would be run to find a suitable one. iv. The Lending Library - this was established and contains about 200 books, donated by members.

All members received with the next Newsletter, a copy of the Constitution and a list of members.

At a Committee meeting it was decided that, instead of holding Committee Meetings, Meetings of Members would be held. This would give the Members an opportunity to meet each other socially and get to know each other. The first Members' Meeting was held at the home of Tertius du Plessis in Pretoria on March 6, 1970 and was a success.

On March 9, 1970, Tex Cooper was interviewed by Ronnie Wilson about the S.F. Club on the Radio Programme 'Switch On.'

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This was broadcast over the English Service of the S.A.B.C.

To sum up. What has the Club accomplished in the first nine months of its existence?

1. We have a membership of thirty-five S.F. fans linked together by their common interest in Science Fiction.

2. The Club has a name, emblem and a healthy Savings Account to cater for future needs.

3. Affiliation with N3F was effective from January 1970.

4. A Newsletter is published regularly containing articles, stories, news and letters from members.

5. The facilities of the Lending Library are available to members.

Of the future? Our future plans include:

1. Inviting Dr. Bleksley to be an honorary member.

2. Arranging film shows for members.

3. Arranging lectures by prominent scientists and holding discussions and debates.

4. Holding social events, such as braai-veises or picnics.

Establishing a regular South African S.F. Convention, inviting members from America and Europe to attend and sending representatives to the Annual WorldCon. Eventually we hope to hold the WorldCon in South Africa.

These are the future plans. With the enthusiasm and help of our members we will accomplish them.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation was organised in 1941 by a group of fans who felt the need of an organisation to further the enjoyment of S.F. They had been meeting in New York at the home of Dr. R.D. Swisher. At one of the meetings Art Widener suggested organizing a national S.F. club. The idea was met with enthusiasm and 64 fans became charter members of NFFF. NFFF is a club organised and operated by persons interested in the field of S.F.

The policy of NFFF, as is the policy of S.F.S.A., is to stimulate and increase interest in S.F. To help others enjoy S.F. by uniting with those of the same interest. S.F. Fandom is unique in the way it has organised into large world organisations banded together for the sole purpose of enjoying and helping others to enjoy S.F.

The NFFF has various Bureaus which attend to certain functions to facilitate the running of it and to help the fans obtain the maximum enjoyment out of S.F. Some of these will be dealt with, although only briefly.

Welcome Committee: They welcome new members to the club and offer their services to the new member to help him become acquainted with the club's activities. Letters from the Welcome Committee to new members need not be answered and if answers to questions are needed, then the Welcome Committee will be there to supply the information.

Follow-up Bureau: This takes over where the Welcome Committee leaves off. They assist in bringing together members with mutual interests. Members who wish to correspond with others of similar interests may approach the Follow-up Bureau for names and addresses.

Manuscript Bureau: They act as a material distribution centre for fanzine publishers. Material is received from those who wish to see it in print, e.g. artwork, fiction, cartoons or anything of fanish interest. Any fanzine editor is welcome to the material without cost. The only obligation is that a copy of the fanzine must be sent to the contributor, containing his work, free of charge.

Information Bureau: To help you find the answers to any questions you may have regarding authors, stories, fandom or anything of fanish interest.

Story Contest: An amateur story contest is held each year for those interested in writing S.F. Stories are judged on their merits and members may submit more than one story if they want to. The judges do not know who the authors are and Frederik Pohl has been judge for quite a few years and has bought some of the stories. S.F.S.A. would like to submit stories if the members are interested.

There are other Bureaus that you will hear about and there is no set rule for enjoying membership in the club. Self-satisfaction will only come when you become active in some facet of fandom.

NFFF publishes two 'zines. One is a letterzine, called TIGHTTEAM, and any fan may sound off in it. Here members write about anything fanish. The other 'zine is the official organ of the club and is called TNFF. Here official reports on the running of the club are published.

Fans are a group which can be laudatory as well as severe critics. Both should be accepted with good grace, without anger or swollen heads. We were organized to have fun and this we shall do despite critics or feuds.

We hope that these write-ups have enabled you to understand NFFF and S.F.S.A. a little better. However, there is one point you should remember, it takes interested, active fans to keep the club going and growing and improving. They are the ones who make it a club to be proud of.
