



Taffluorescence! third issue



April brings the sweet spring showers, and the TAFF results. Said results are brought to you by two weary administrators, with ballot forms and numbers dancing round and round their poor exhausted heads. I am *Sandra Bond, 1B Chestnut House, Mucklestone Rd, Loggerheads, Market Drayton TF9 1DA, UK* and I am European TAFF admin. North America's outgoing admin, looking forward to a rest: *Michael Lowrey, 1847 N. 2nd St, Milwaukee, WI 53212, USA*

EU TAFF email: EUTaff@gmail.com ~~ NA TAFF email: n.a.Taff.2020@gmail.com
 EU TAFF PayPal: EUTaff@gmail.com ~~ NA TAFF PayPal: TAFF@toad-hall.com
 Absolutely everything you could possibly want to know about TAFF: taff.org.uk



SARAH GULDE WINS TAFF!

Let's start with the most important news! We're pleased to congratulate Sarah on winning the 2024 TAFF race, which will send her to the Worldcon in Glasgow this summer where she will be subjected to a whirlwind experience which will age her ten years in a weekend (but in a *good* way... honest, Sarah).

We'd like to thank Vanessa Applegate for making it a lively and well-contested race, and we remind her that plenty of TAFF winners in the past came out on top on a second go-around, after falling short in their first candidacy. Indeed, Sarah herself is not the first fan to win TAFF on a *third* attempt. Hint, hint.

We now stand aside to give Sarah the rest of the front page for her victory statement:

"I've been trying really hard not to get my hopes up the last few weeks, because Nessa would be an awesome TAFF delegate and I'd be very happy for her if she won.

But today I was on pins and needles all afternoon, and when Orange Mike called me while I was driving and told me the final results, I screamed out loud. I'm actually really proud of myself that I didn't crash!

This is a huge honor, and I'm grateful to be of service to the fannish community. I would like to thank my nominators: Seanan McGuire, Chris Garcia, Kevin Roche, Johan Anglemark, and James Bacon. I'd also like to thank Orange Mike, Sandra Bond, Geri Sullivan, and Fia Karlsson for running this race. And I'd like to thank everyone who cast a vote – TAFF wouldn't exist without your support!

Now to make plans for Glasgow..."



THE FIGURES are as follows.

To commence, 118 valid votes were cast. 25 (14 NA, 11 EU) were submitted with no preference, simply in order to support TAFF. We cherish these votes as much as any other.

The following 93 votes expressed a preference for candidates, like so:

North America: Sarah Gulde 28, Vanessa Applegate 15, Hold Over Funds 4
Europe (includes 1 Australian vote): Sarah Gulde 30, Vanessa Applegate 16, Hold Over Funds 0

Sarah thus received 58 votes, more than 50% of the total 93, and therefore wins on the first round, meaning no reallocations and recalculations are needed. It may be noted that both candidates clear the hurdle of requiring 20% of votes on both sides of the ocean.



MILWAUKEE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

To the considerable surprise and dismay of both admins, we were forced to disallow an alarmingly large number of votes for failure to send the voting fee along with the ballot. No fewer than *twenty* voters thus failed to have their preference counted. (Of these twenty, one would have been disqualified in any event for arriving after the deadline, and a further six for failing to prove their eligibility to vote or provide a referee to confirm their fan activity in April 2022 or earlier.)

The only year where we've found anything similar is 2022, where 23 ballots went into the bit bucket for the selfsame reason. (Last year it was only 3.)

As chance would have it, neither these 20 votes as a whole, nor any permutation of them, would have affected the result if allowed – *but they easily could have*.

This would seem to be a modern phenomenon, and it is obviously an undesirable one. I could grumble and grouch and mutter about how some people evidently think the Good Fairies fly the delegate to the Worldcon on wings of gossamer, rather than TAFF needing to spend money on such sordid items as air fares... but I'd rather think in terms of how we can prevent this from happening again.

Next race, I intend to print the requirement for votes to be accompanied by the minimum sum of £3, €3, or \$4 in as large a typeface as there's room for, and probably **IN BOLD** to boot. I may also change the wording to refer to a "voting fee" rather than a "donation", for clarity's sake. Meantime, though, if anybody can suggest any clue as to why this issue has suddenly sprung up, or has another bright idea to circumvent it... I'm all ears.

One further vote was also scrubbed for arriving after the deadline; the voter, Curtis C. Chen, has graciously allowed TAFF to keep the voting fee anyway. Ta. And a last minute thanks to Bridget Bradshaw, who missed the deadline so didn't vote, but has just donated!



Let's look on the bright side, though... Voting fees alone (i.e. excluding the great many other areas of income for TAFF) have raised the following moneys: **€85... £381.21... \$738.73**. TAFF's coffers are never as full as we'd like, but they're doing okay... for now.

THANKS TO ALL THESE VOTERS (with fancy italics to aid legibility and save space...)

Johan Anglemark... Linnea Anglemark... Dave Axler...
*James Bacon... Lenny Bailes... Ed Beecher... Judith Bemis... John D. Berry... Kirsten M. Berry...
Sandra Bond... Deborah Bretschneider... Claire Brialey... Pamela Burr...
Abigail Carey... David (DC) Carlile... Ashley Charlton... Amber Clark... Nicola Clarke...
Rich Coad... Eli Cohen... Tammy Coxen... John Coxon... Tony Cullen...
Vincent Docherty... Frances Dowd... Christine A. Doyle...
Sue Edwards... Abie Ekenezar...
Gary Farber... Nic Farey... Douglas Faunt... Sara Felix... Thomas Ferguson...
Carol Garcia... Christopher Garcia... Steve Glover... Mike Glycer... Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf...
Cathy Green... Sarah Gulde...
Jukka Halme... Allison Hartman Adams... Mark Herrup... Lisa Hertel... Irwin Hirsh...
Constanze Hoffman... Andrew Hogg... Andrew P. Hooper...
Rob Jackson... Emily January... Kate JohnsTon...
Fia Karlsson... Marcin Klak... Mikolaj Kowalewski... Saija Kyllönän...
Christina J. Lake... Jesi Lipp... Michael J. Lowrey... Sonia Lyris...
Sue Mason... Maciej Matuszewski... Elizabeth McCarty... Farah Mendlesohn...
Jennifer Morris... Caroline Mullan...
Brian Nisbet...
Mark Olson... Omega...
Henrick Pålsson... Harry Payne... Curt Phillips... Diana Pho... Catherine Pickersgill...
Mark Plummer... John Purcell...
Anna Raftery... Thomas Recktenwald... Theresa Renner... Robert C. Reyes...
Mark E. Richards... Kevin Roche... Heath Row... Nigel Rowe... Lea Rush...
Ruth Sachter... Juan Sanmiguel... Kristine Scalzi... Karen Schaffer... Alison Scott...
Mike Scott... Catherine Sharp... España Sheriff... James Shields... Jon Singer...
Marguerite Smith... Anna Smith-Spark... Douglas Spencer... Just Spike... Kevin Standlee...
Caitlin Starling... Geri Sullivan... Peter Sullivan...
Jamal Taylor... Katrina Templeton... Amy Thomson... Andrew Trembley... Leslie Turek...
Tobes Valois... Jan van't Ent... Pat Virzi...
Alissa Wales... Andrew Wales... David Wardrop... Paul Weimer... Thomas J. Westerberg...
Nicholas Whyte... Bridget Wilkinson...
Ben Yalow.*



AND ESPECIAL THANKS FROM THE ADMINS TO...

Former winners Fia Karlsson (2 years ago), Geri Sullivan (5 years ago), Dave Langford (44!! years ago), and to Claire Brialey who has never won TAFF *at all*. All of these people have devoted a very large amount of time and energy to making sure that TAFF continues to run with its accustomed smoothness and efficiency (hem-hem).

On a purely personal note from S&ra... I well recall how, as a newly minted little youngfan, I used to dream of being a Big Name Fan of the kind who won fan funds and generally did Important Things In Fandom. In particular I was fond of imagining how much fun it must be to win TAFF and not only get to travel to exotic places and hobnob with foreign fans, but then to come home and watch the votes come rolling in, smug in the knowledge that I knew who was winning and nobody else in *all fandom* had that insider info. Well, as so often, the substance fails to measure up to the shadow. Administering TAFF during a race proves to be plain, absolute ballache; figures, lists, research, administrivia. The bold quartet I've listed above saved me from a total descent into insanity. Bravo to them all.

TAFF IN TELFORD

Levitation, a.k.a. Eastercon 2024, happened. Well, “happened” is too neutral a word; the committee made it happen – ensured that it happened. Despite some travel issues there and back, some accessibility issues (almost all beyond the power of the con to address), the venue re-tarmac-ing the car park over Easter weekend, and trepidation about holding an Eastercon in BLOODY TELFORD, a splendid time was had by the vast majority, and the venue was voted an overwhelming hit (Criswell predicts future bids for Telford before long).

“Explosion in the tat factory,” drily muttered a certain fan fund stalwart as the fan table in the dealer room was loaded to groaning point with books, trip reports, t-shirts, mugs, tchotchkes, and the wonderful tombola machine whose mechanism so closely and aptly resembles an old-time duplicator crank. Perhaps so; but fans came and bought it in large amounts. Thanks, if you were one of them. Those items remaining – including some thought too valuable to be offered at a mere Eastercon – are to be packed up and carted up to the Worldcon’s lock-up in Rutherglen (courtesy of Alan Fleming and David Bamford), ready to go through the procedure again at Glasgow this summer.

The Sunday night fan fund auction saw current TAFF admin Sandra Bond, past ditto John Coxon, and GUFF admin Alison Scott, dispose of half-a-century of lots in an hour and a half of insanity. Highlights included John knocking down to himself a bright orange hat (Mike Lowrey! Where were you?) from Woomera, and then a badge, also from Woomera, to put in it; and Gail Courtney bidding on and winning an item she had only donated the day before, because the fan she’d intended to win it wasn’t in the room. (“Is this the stuff real fans are made of? Very likely, I think” – Greg Pickersgill, TAFF Vale 3, 1988). The auction raised £754, this sum split between TAFF, GUFF, EFF, and the SF Encyclopædia (lately cast out into the cruel world by publishers to make its own way). Mary Burns served as runner, and did so wonderful a job that we’ll forgive her for coming along on Monday, after everything (including the cash boxes) was shut down and packed away, and donating her convention groats to TAFF since there was nothing else left to expend them upon...

POINTLESS STATISTICS

71 out of the 139 votes received gave a Gmail address as contact; in the “how are the mighty fallen” department, only 9 came from a Hotmail address, 5 from Yahoo, 5 from AOL and a mere 2 from Earthlink.

The ballot box was open for eighty days (around the world in...?), and votes came in at exactly 1.75 votes per day. However, a full 80 votes (more than half the total) arrived in the final two weeks – which I suppose should be no surprise.

Three fans with three-word names voted; all three seem to use the central name as part of their surname, but only one helpfully hyphenates theirs to help indexers. Per contra, some fans prefer mononyms; but I decline to break the alphabet by listing Omega under Ω.

COME TO SUNNY GLASGOW... WELL, COME TO GLASGOW, ANYWAY

We hope to see plenty of TAFF activity at Glasgow 2024. Sarah will, of course, be there; so will a great many previous TAFF winners. It’s likely that many will be found clustering round the fan fund table, ready to help you crank the fabulous tombola handle. Then, as hinted above, there will be at least one fan fund auction – possibly more than one, as we’re pondering a silent auction in addition to the live one. *How can you resist?*