



Taffluorescence! seventh issue



2024 crawls despairingly into its last days; 2025 brings many things, many of them cause for debate, but one which we can surely all agree to be a good thing is a NEW TAFF RACE! We are your administrators: Sandra Bond, 1B Chestnut House, Mucklestone Rd, Loggerheads, Market Drayton TF9 1DA, UK. Sarah Gulde, 3244SE 153rd Ave, Portland, OR 97236, USA. EU TAFF email: EUTaff@gmail.com ~~ NA TAFF email: n.a.Taff.2020@gmail.com EU TAFF PayPal: EUTaff@gmail.com ~~ NEW NA TAFF PayPal: SaraMiyoko@gmail.com Information on TAFF, free ebook downloads, and a medley of extemporanea: taff.org.uk



The massed members of fandom sit in the auditorium. The lights go down, and the curtain rises to reveal SANDRA and SARAH. Both are clad in sparkling, spangled outfits. Sarah sports a top hat at a jaunty angle; Sandra, with a straw boater and cane, appears to be cosplaying Q. Wertyuiop from the old Void covers. The orchestra strikes up, and Sarah sings:

SARAH: "It seems today that all we see is violence in movies and sex on TV -"

Sandra raps her cane on the stage to interrupt her and stage-whispers.

SANDRA: "Wrong song! This isn't Family Guy. It's the announcement of the new TAFF race!"

Sarah grins apologetically. The two form up centre stage. Sandra signals to the orchestra leader (who bears a striking resemblance to Alison Scott): she puts down her baton, picks up an accordion, and goes into a hearty Weird Al-style introduction.

SANDRA AND SARAH, in duet: "We've got harmonies to thrill you -"

SARAH: "We've got jokes to make you laugh -"

SANDRA: "We've got fundraising auctions, and frivolity and chaff -"

SARAH: "We've got fun for all of fandom -"

SANDRA: "But we don't have a giraffe -"

The music stops dead. Sarah looks at Sandra.

SANDRA, apologetically: "Well, you try to find another rhyme there!"

Sarah shrugs, and the music restarts for one more line:

SANDRA AND SARAH in unison: "But what we're really here for is to make you vote in TAFF!"

The accordion finishes on the "Ear Booker Polka" riff. Sandra and Sarah bow. Applause. Curtain.



From which you will note that the 2025 TAFF race is about to leave the starting gate! The TransAtlantic Fan Fund has been encouraging links between fandom in Europe and in North America since the distant days of the 1950s. "Tho' much is taken, much abides," as Tennyson once remarked in an issue of *Vector*; fandom has changed enormously, but TAFF goes ever on, and a jolly good thing it is, too.

To repeat the instructions upon the 2025 TAFF ballot, which is being released simultaneously with this: TAFF opens for votes on Wednesday 1 January 2025, and the electoral period continues until Wednesday 23 April 2025. The winner will attend the Seattle Worldcon, which takes place in August 2025, and they will thereafter become the new European administrator. (Thus does TAFF renew itself.)

(Note that we have moved the deadline on one day from the traditional ‘Tuesday after the UK Eastercon finishes’ date, largely because – with Eastercon in Belfast in 2025 – many people are likely to have longer journeys back from it and having an extra day seems sensible.)

I expect by now you’re either drumming your foot impatiently to see the candidate list, or have already turned to the ballot to look at it. Here are your choices:

Zi Graves, Mikołaj Kowalewski, and Jan Vaněk jr.

Three candidates of three different nationalities, one of them living in a fourth country... how much more cosmopolitan, and how much more indicative of the worldwide spread of fandom, do you want us to get?

To cast a vote, either complete and mail in the ballot form, or – greatly to be preferred – fill it in online, following the instructions at <https://taff.org.uk/vote.php>. **DO NOT FORGET** to pay your voting fee; in the last race, we had to disqualify several ballots which failed to come along with one, and we hate doing that. Hate, hate, hate! The fee (slightly adjusted this year to go along with fluctuations in currency values) is £3 (GBP), €4 (EUR) or \$4 (USD). This is a minimum donation; larger sums are welcomed with open arms (and cash box).

NOTE ALSO North American TAFF’s a new PayPal address since last race; see colophon.

Any questions or issues arising should be addressed to Sandra or Sarah; see colophon, again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Some more snippets of news to fill out the page:

Chapter 2 of Sandra’s TAFF report, covering her period in New York (state and city), is on the verge of being published by Rob Jackson in *Inca*. (If not on his mailing list already, ask him for a copy! robjacksonmaya@gmail.com). Chapter 3 (Chicago) is earmarked for Dan Steffan’s *Boonfark*. Chapter 4 (Madison and Minneapolis), chapter 6 part 2 (Canada west of Moose Jaw), and further chapters covering Las Vegas, Seattle, California and Washington DC are still to be spoken for (as well as still to be written). Bids welcome...

TAFF will have a presence at *BOSKONE 62* in February, and *CORFLU 42* in April, as per our previous issue. Contrary to what we said in that, I (Sandra) *will* now be at *RECONNECT (Eastercon 76)*, 18-21 April, Belfast, and there are plans for a fan funds auction, although other fundraising will reflect the difficulty of transporting the usual medley of fannish tat there and back. In particular, as well as selling my own books in the dealer room, I should also – thanks to Ian Watson who wrote it, Dave Langford who edited it, and Tommy Ferguson who’s arranging for shipping – be able to sell you copies of *Watto’s Wisdom* in aid of TAFF, some 82,000 words of Ian Watson’s writing for convention publications and fanzines, all gathered together for your delight. I shall also gladly collect ballots and voting fees there!

Right, that’s your lot. Vote vote vote vote vote vote vote (*contd. p.94*)