

NOVACON: THE BOARD GAME!

Original rules (by all means make up your own)

You will need some six sided dice and counters (because in the COVID era of us all being unable to complete tasks the designer never made any...)

Every body starts at the cash point. Roll 2 dice to move. Travel clockwise on to/past reception.

Each time you land in a "room" follow instructions. In most "rooms" you roll again immediately to see what will happen to you!

Roll 1D6 and multiply by 10 for how many Groats you've got to begin with. Then collect 4D6 Groats each time you land on or pass the cash point.

If you're instructed to go "straight to" somewhere you do NOT pass the cash point.

If you run out of money you must go to the cash point directly but then you MUST go straight to the bar! Could you become trapped in an endless cycle of cash point - bar - cash point? Why yes - yes you could!!

Also roll 2 dice and multiply by 5 for how many "Dignity Points" you've got. You can lose and (very occasionally) gain dignity points.

Keep a tally of groats and dignity on a piece of paper.

Cash can be replenished by various means. Dignity cannot. If your dignity score is not a minus number by the end then you haven't had a proper Novacon!

ENDING THE GAME

You can go round as many times as you like but we recommend that the game ends when:

- a) everybody has completed at least three circuits of the board (so that's Friday, Saturday, Sunday), or
- b) You all lose the will to live

To finish everyone playing must make it all the way round to the programme room. Do not follow the usual instructions for this room but place your counter in Awards ceremony. Take no further moves. When everyone is there, the convention may end.

WINNING - there are no winners at a science fiction convention, only survivors. But we suggest the winner is the person with the highest, or least lowest, dignity score and any groats left at the end. You have been a cool fan all weekend and People Have Noticed. Editors want you to write for them. Conrunners want you as a panellist. You may even, Ghod help you, be asked to join the next Novacon Committee!

"Play testing"? What's that?

SPECIAL CHARACTERS: CHOOSE WHICH ONE YOU WANT TO BE!

BNF You're secretly glad the Nova Awards were abolished because you haven't got space for any more of the damn things. Inevitably you're asked to appear on a panel so your **special power** is one time during the game you don't have to pay for a drink.

TRUFAN The stout* yeomanry of science fiction fandom. Your home is full of novelty waistcoats, amusing hats, art, SF gimcrackery and even books! Your **special power** is one time during the game you don't have to make a purchase (excluding beer, of course) because "you've already got one"!

(*we're not implying anything...)

ORIGINAL MEMBER You joined your first Novacon with a postal order and rocked up to the Imperial Hotel to hear Guest James White. The price of a 2020 membership would have bought you about 250 pints of beer in 1971. Your **special power** is one time during the game you can avoid losing dignity points because "you did something much dafter" in 1977!

INTERNATIONAL FAN What global traveller would want to miss the British Midlands in November? Exchange rates are looking good for you right now so your **special power** is at the start you get an extra 2D6 groats. Unless Brexit has been a roaring success in which case **deduct** 2D6 groats (yeah like that's gonna happen).

ACADEMIC You can use the word "meta" in a sentence without looking daft and you have three elevenths of a Hugo for your book: "Elmer T Hack: threat or menace". Your **special power** is one time you can get out of any bad situation in the programme room by blinding everybody with Delaney's take on post-structuralism.

FORMER GUEST OF HONOUR You came back because Novacon is so much fun for writers (really it is!). We're glad to see you back. Your **special power** is one time you can move straight through reception and registration to the bar.

* If you are genuinely vegetarian or vegan you are exempt from this penalty

BREAKFAST Roll 1 D6 immediately
 1 Go back for extra bacon miss a turn*
 2 Make a scene about no hash browns -1D6 dignity
 3 Get up too late. Buy your own 2D6
 4 Can't work coffee machine -1D6 Dig
 5 Go back for **even more** bacon* -1D6 dignity for being a greedy guts and miss a turn
 6 "overdo it" with ketchup bottle. -1D6 dignity and straight back to room to change trousers.

THE BAR
 IMMEDIATELY BUY A BEVERAGE OR SNACK
 ROLL 2 DICE FOR COST then roll 2D6 again:
 2 You walk in to the wrong toilets. Lose 1D6 dignity points.
 3-4 You are trapped by someone with an incredibly long anecdote about Harlan Ellison Miss a turn hoping that death takes you soon.
 5 -6 You ask Chris Priest to sign a book and hand him an Iain M Banks novel! Lose 2D6 dignity points
 7 Buy raffle tickets 1D6 groats
 8-9 Order food. Miss a turn waiting for it to arrive
 10 - 11 It seems a perfectly reasonable idea to have another drink. Roll 2 dice for cost again.
 12 You hatch a plot to resurrect the Concrete Overcoat Fan Fund. Miss a turn and lose 1D6 dignity while sensible people explain why this is a bad, bad idea.

DEALERS Roll 2D6 immediately
 2-3 BUY A BOOK! 2D6 groats
 4-5 Buy naff waistcoat -2D6 dignity
 6-7 pre support the next bloody British world con 2D6 groats
 8-9 pick up a load of free crap. Too much to carry - go straight to your hotel room
 10-11 Buy stupid dalek eyestalk that you can wear as a hat. --1D6 dignity
 12 Sell something! +2D6 groats

OFF PISTE Roll 1 D6 immediately
 1 The kids in a dark corner stare unnervingly at you till you bugger off. Roll & move again immediately.
 2 Suggest a game of pool but they got rid of the table! -1D6 dignity.
 3 Kaffeklatsche - your ginger nut dissolves in your coffee -1D6 dignity
 4 Launch your own book roll 4D6 for takings, then deduct 5D6 for costs!
 5 Fan fund auction spend 2D6 groats
 6 Book auction spend 1D6 groats

Dave Lally Room
 Miss a turn watching Son of Return of Revenge of the Borscht Monster in original Hungarian

ART SHOW Roll 1D6
 Even - Make a bid;
 Odd - Make a sale!
 Roll 4 dice for the amount

PROGRAMME
 Roll 2 D6 immediately
 2 Miss this item because you're in the Nice Pub Down The Road. Go straight there now.
 3 Spill drink on sound desk, Miss a turn while Tech team beat you up.
 4 Become inextricably trapped in collapsible screen - 1D6 dignity.
 5 Buy stuff at book launch party. Spend 2D6 groats.
 6 Appear on panel - next drink is free.
 7 Appear on the stupid Dave Hicks Game Show - lose 1D6 dignity or lose 3D6 but win!
 8 Appear in Ian Sorensen musical - lose 1D6 dignity or lose 3D6 but get a solo!
 9 GoH talk - you ask an intelligent question! + 1D6 dignity
 10 The Panel about the end of the World. Depressing. Go straight to bar.
 11 Help move chairs and trap finger. Miss a turn hopping round in agony.
 12 Book launch. Too much free wine -1D6 dignity and go straight to hotel room.

SUNDAY EVENING!
 When all players are here go to the **AWARDS CEREMONY BOX**

REGISTRATION
 If you roll a double when you move off this square you have joined the committee and are now DCM. Any time you roll a double move directly here.
 Roll 1D6 immediately.
 1 Be a gopher- get 1D6 groats.
 2 Staff the desk miss a turn
 3 Fail to recognise world famous author on arrival -- 2D6 Dignity
 4 Sign up for next year Spend 3D6 groats
 4 Buy raffle tickets 1D6 groats.
 6 Become ensnared in al Steve Lawson's spare lanyards. -1D6 dignity.

HOTEL RECEPTION
 Roll 1D6
 1 Room not ready miss a turn.
 2 Room has oppressive wall paper miss a turn demanding a change
 3 You checked in hours ago to avoid this nonsense. Proceed to room of your choice (git!)
 Roll 4+ to use the lift and go straight to Off Piste (if you wish)

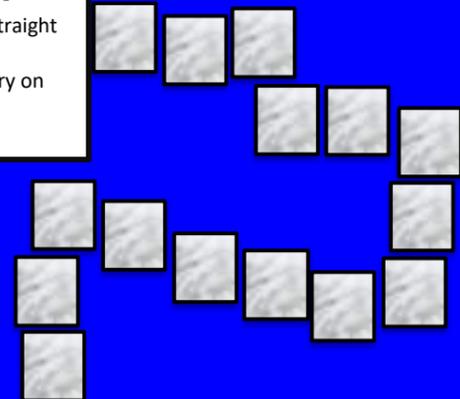
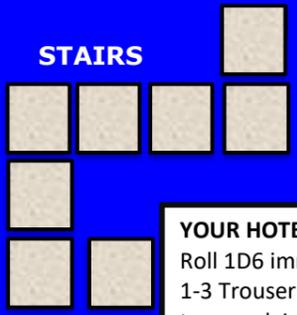
CASH POINT
 Collect 4D6 groats.

Next roll - odd go straight to pub, even carry on

THE LIFT

THE LIFT

STAIRS



YOUR HOTEL ROOM
 Roll 1D6 immediately..
 1-3 Trouser press incident miss turn explaining to hotel.
 4-6 Shower & change. re-emerge looking cool and gain 1D6 dignity.
 ROLL 8+ TO USE LIFT and go straight to reception

ROOM PARTY! If 2 or more fans in room at same time = room party!
 All attendees lose 1D6 dignity because it's not possible to attend a convention room party and not do something daft. then carry on.

THAT NICE PUB DOWN THE ROAD
 Spend 2D6 groats then meander back next turn.



Designer's note: none of the things described in this game have EVER HAPPENED at a Novacon. Nope! None of them! Honest!

SUNDAY EVENING: THE AWARDS CEREMONY...

Just when you thought it was over!

The Raffle! To simulate the true experience of hyper efficient super fast Novacon raffle all plays must sit quietly twiddling their thumbs for ten minutes. Then...

Roll 2D6 for your raffle prize. Assign +/- dignity points as you see fit.

- 2 A full set of Harry Potter in Swedish
- 3 Chocolates with centres to which you are allergic
- 4 Chocolates that Dave got when he was working at the sweet factory (er, eighteen months ago)
- 5 Free membership to a convention that clashes with the date you're due to have the "procedure"
- 6 Free membership for a convention where you're already on the committee
- 7 Free membership for next year's Novacon. Woo hoo!
- 9 A classic wine from Estonia
- 8 A classic wine from England
- 9 The thing that you're not sure what it is but all the other prizes have gone
- 10 A meat packet
- 11 A box set of Lionel Fanthrope novels
- 12 A *signed* box set of Lionel Fanthrope novels



...AND THE BEER TASTING & SUNDAY EVENING MEAL!

Roll 2D6 for what happens. Assign +/- dignity points as you see fit.

- 2 No, a Watney's Party Seven you've had sine 1981 does not get you in.
- 3 Three bottles from Aldi? That'll do nicely!
- 4 It's nice that beavers have been reintroduced to the UK, you just didn't expect to be served a whole one, fried.
- 5 "Cheese beer"? That's a new one!
- 6 Do you really think everybody hasn't noticed you going back for thirds?
- 7 Nineteen per cent ! That Belgian beer you just tried wasn't really 19% was it? Oh dear!
- 8 You find you are drinking a rare bottle of Fuller's that's worth about £500
- 9 You find you have donated a rare bottle of Fuller's that's worth about £500
- 10 You arrive late and have to sit at a table with your arch enemy.
- 11 You haven't got an arch enemy. You feel left out*.
- 12 The supplier ran out of jalapenos so the chef substituted with something called a "Carolina Reaper" on the theory that all chillies are basically the same...

IT'S ALL OVER BAR THE SCURRILOUS CONVENTION REPORTS!

REFILL YOUR GLASS ONE LAST TIME AND GO LIE IN DARKENED ROOM

If you have enjoyed this game tell your friends!

If you have not enjoyed this game please direct your complaint in writing to our Hotel Liaison Officer. You won't receive a reply and we strongly recommend you never, ever ask what he did with it.

*For advice on how to acquire an arch enemy in SF fandom please ask the committee.