



WOOHOO! I WON!!!!

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I'm still stunned. There's no other word for it. I didn't think I'd win. There was Christian McGuire, a guy who would be equally as good a delegate, a guy who had run a WorldCon and a dude who was a part of LASFS. How could he lose? I thought I'd do OK, maybe I'd be able to say that I did well in the UK and it'd set the stage for another TAFF race a couple of years down the line. I'd help Christian raise money for the Fund, things would be nice and neat and tidy.

And then I won.

I didn't believe it was possible. I really didn't. I've been working at this for a year and a half and now it's over and I've somehow managed to snow enough people into voting for me that I get to make the trip to Eastercon and finally get to meet all those British fans I've never had a chance to chat with. I'll get to make my tired jokes over there where they're still fresh! I'll get to write a report about my travels and the fun and the tiredness and why-the-hell-do-they-drink-their-bheer-warm and so much more.

In short, I'm gonna get to be a TAFF delegate.

I was at home packing for Lo-scon in my pajamas when Suzle called. I was shocked. I called The Lovely and Talented Linda and told her. She must have thought I was a mad man because I was babbling like Homer Simpson on a sugar high. I went to BASFA,

meetig right down the street, and told them (sorry TAFF administrators, I tried to keep it in, but it just burst out!). Yes, I did go to the meeting in my pajamas. These things happen.

So, I spent all night thinking (and who could sleep with the win so fresh on the mind) and there's gonna be some fun stuff happening. I'm planning on 2+ weeks, three weekends and the two weeks in-between. I wish it could be longer, but Gen's not gonna be happy with me being gone for so long anyhow and I've committed to two other cons this year and though I've got four weeks of vacation, that'll almost certainly be eaten away with the trips and the two other trips. It's looking like I'll fly in on the 14th of March, stick around London and the environs for a bit, go and see some of the fan groups around that part of the country and then head to Eastercon, enjoy that, and then head to the rest of the UK to meet with more fans and such. I'll be looking for crash space/ride shares/free booze. More the first two than that latter, though.

I wish I could do more than just the UK, I'd love to go to Finland or Sweden (let's of great fan writers in Sweden) but it doesn't look like that can happen. Hopefully one or two of the good folks from those countries will make the trip to EasterCon.

And then there's the trip report. I'm not going to do a printed version.



It's just not what I do. I will be starting a challenge called TAREwriMo that I'll talk more about later. It's gonna be the biggest part of my fundraising, hopefully.

And there's so much more. I'm excited and there's still much to do in the next few weeks. I've found a cheap flight that has enough seats that I can wait a little to book it and I've found a hotel. I've got to buy my membership soon, but that'll wait until my next paycheck. I've gotta get a laptop. I've gotta get my passport (there's some hold-up) and I've got to basically get myself ready to go to the UK.

I think Frank Wu's response to my winning was the best: it's cool that you won, but now that means no more Chris for TAFF art!