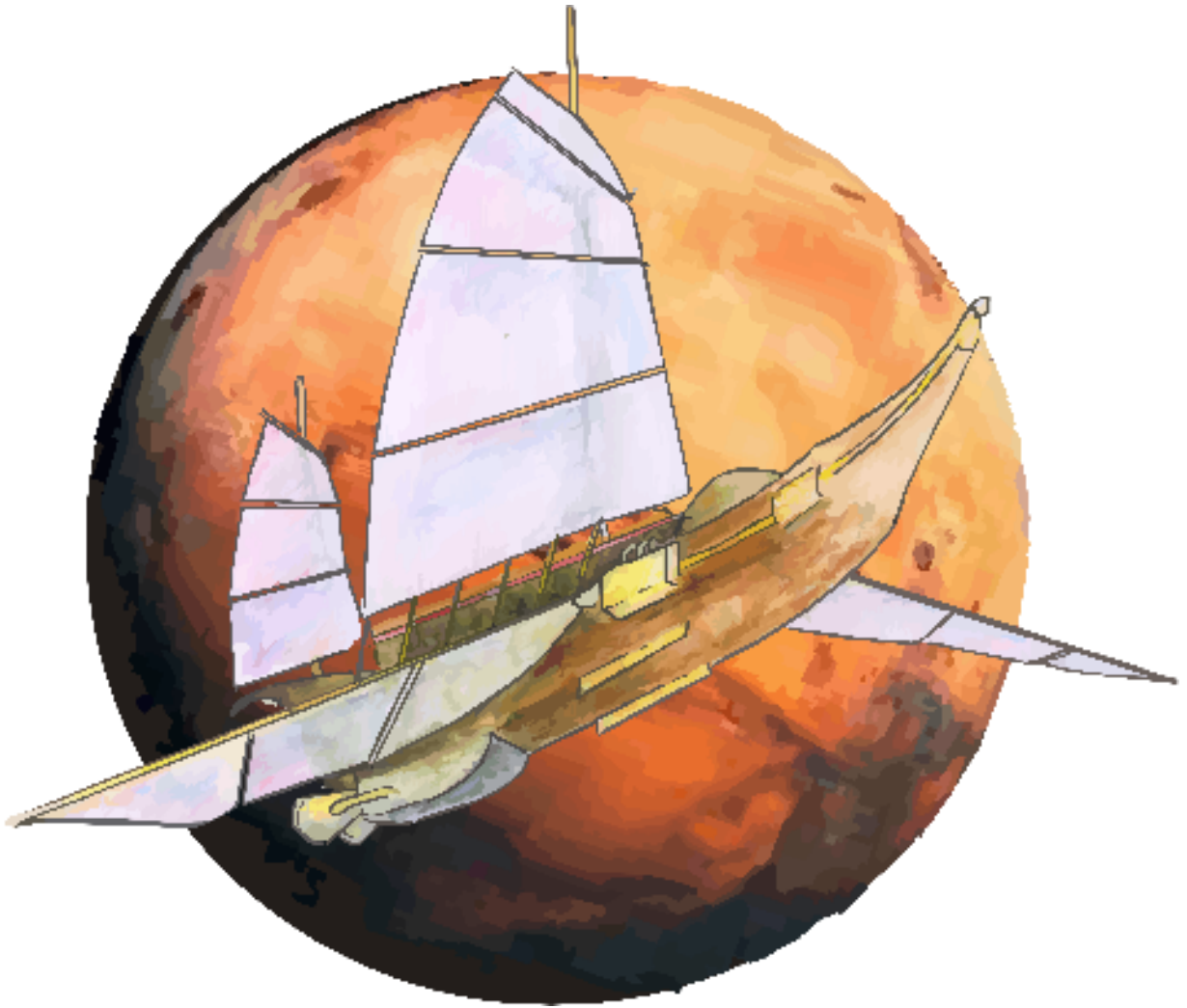


# Satellite 3

...the next giant leap



25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012,  
Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow.

## Memorandum of Progress

## **A Directive from Above**

Having focussed on early SF and the Soviet Space Programme at Satellite 1, and the Moon and American missions at Satellite 2, we now turn our attention to Mars and the Chinese Space Programme. The mere fact that no-one has yet been there will not stop us marking another significant space landmark – the 30th ante-anniversary of the first manned landing! And if the Chinese do not make it to Mars by 2042, I will apologise and immediately blame the wrong sort of snow at the Martian polar ice-caps.

Already our programme is looking very exciting, with Guest of Honour Charlie Stross promising a reading from his latest novel plus the return of many of our popular contributors from Satellite 1 and 2. You will find further information about the programme, our hotel and much more in the rest of this PR.

Finally, can I just say the best conventions are the ones where the members all contribute to the event. So if you want to help before or at the convention, or participate in programme items, just let us know – your contributions will be most appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all at Satellite 3.

**Michael**

**Jade Emperor to the Celestial Bureaucracy & Committee Chair**

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# A Summary of Who's Who

## **Our Dates and Location:**

25<sup>th</sup> — 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow, UK

## **Our Guest of Honour:**

Charles Stross

## **The Celestial Bureaucracy (Our Committee):**

Michael Davidson: Yellow Dragon of the Centre  
(Chair)

David Gibson: Vermillion Bird of the South  
(Vice-chair and Logistics)

Christine Davidson: White Tiger of the West  
(Programme and Guest Liaison)

Carolyn Sleith: Black Tortoise of the North  
(Treasurer and Membership)

Mad Elf: Azure Dragon of the East  
(Publicity and Website)

## **Our Contact Details:**

General enquiries: [enquiries@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@satellite3.org.uk)

Membership: [membership@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:membership@satellite3.org.uk)

Hotel: [hotel@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:hotel@satellite3.org.uk)

Postal Enquiries: Satellite 3,  
PO Box 3738,  
Glasgow  
G41 4YD

Other contact information is available on the website:  
[www.satellite3.org.uk](http://www.satellite3.org.uk)

<p><b>Credits:</b> Cover art by Neil McChrystal. Photo of Charles Stross by Alan Johnston. Material by Michael Davidson, Mad Elf, Carolyn Sleith, Christine Davidson, David Gibson. Edited and set on OpenOffice by Mad Elf.</p>
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# Programme

The Satellite 3 programme is still under development, but we plan to offer a wide variety of items. These include talks and panel discussions covering the breadth of science fiction, space science with an emphasis on our themes of Mars and China, and lots of fun activities including games and quizzes. (Images are from similar events at Satellite 2.)

## Guest of Honour

A highlight of the convention will of course be our guest, Charlie Stross. Charlie promises us a reading from *The Apocalypse Codex*, the fourth Laundry novel, due for publication in July 2012, and tells us about things he really hates in *GoH Room 101*.



## Talks

Confirmed talks so far include *The Chinese Space Programme* by astronomer Robert Law and *Timekeeping on Mars* by Nik Whitehead. We also feature our customary talk from Glasgow SF artist ED Buckley. This time he tells us what inspires him. We can hardly wait!

## Panels

Mark Meenan leads a discussion about the great (and not so great) SF novels throughout the years featuring the planet Mars. We also debate whether 'geek-chic' means that SF has become mainstream and, if so, is this a good thing.



## Alternative programming

Ksimes has promised us an hour of his *Killer Klips*; whilst Cuddles and Throgg the Despicable have designed a game especially for the weekend called *Space Station Zebra*. We also plan a uniquely Scottish tasting experience *The ASBO Drinks of Scotland*, overseen by Emma P.

## Other items

There will be a Book Auction, a Saturday night disco themed on *The Red Planet* (if you can't think of a costume then simply wear something red or orange and come as landscape!), plus of course Satellite's traditional *Dead Laika Party* for those still standing on Sunday evening.

If you would like to suggest a programme item or volunteer to be on the programme, contact:

[programme@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:programme@satellite3.org.uk)



## Dealers

We hope to offer merchandise to suit a variety of interests. Running with the Satellite conventions theme of science fact and fiction, previous dealer's stocks have included space-related books, novels by our GoH and non-fiction books by specialist science guests. If you are interested in a dealer's table please contact [enquiries@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@satellite3.org.uk)

## Art Show

Our Dealers' room will also be home to the Satellite 3 Art Show, bringing you fine examples of work, many from local artists. There will be no formal Art Auction, but bidding sheets will be provided for those wishing to sell their work. If you would like to exhibit work please contact [enquiries@satellite3.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@satellite3.org.uk)

## Costumes

Hall costumes are welcome at Satellite 3 but any weapons carried as part of a costume must be clearly 'non-realistic' e.g. bright pink water pistols or similar.

We will be running a Hall Costume competition, with a small prize for the winner. We'll be using the Token system, so you can vote for your favourites.



## Children

Satellite 3 is aimed mainly at adult fans, but children are more than welcome to attend provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult. We are unable to offer crèche facilities at the convention.

## Fans with Special Needs

The Grand Central is fully wheelchair-accessible. Seating will be reserved at the front of programme items for use by fans that have, for example, mobility or hearing difficulties.

## Get your Satellite 3 Con T-shirt!

Con t-shirts are available for sale on our website ([www.satellite3.org.uk](http://www.satellite3.org.uk)) for £16. They can be collected in person, or posted anywhere in the UK for an additional £4 per t-shirt.

T-shirts are a single-sided print on black, with the convention logo on the front, and a sleeve patch featuring our Vermillion Bird, the Chinese astrological symbol for Mars. They are available in all sizes from Small to XXXL. As you can see, they are both stylish and functional for all body types and genders, and in a wide range of lighting conditions.







# REDEMPTION '13

22 – 24 February 2013

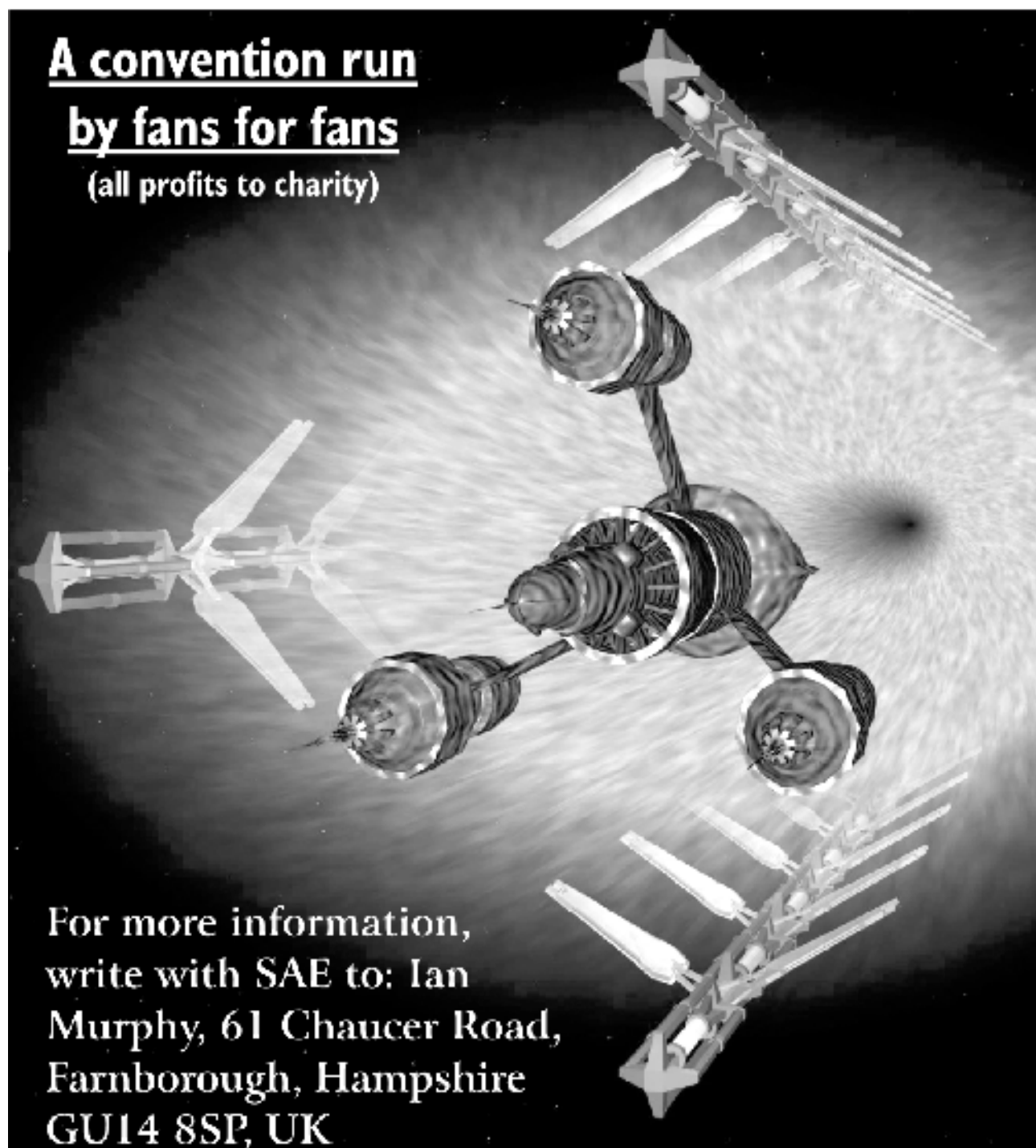
Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK

## Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

**A convention run**

**by fans for fans**

(all profits to charity)



For more information,  
write with SAE to: Ian  
Murphy, 61 Chaucer Road,  
Farnborough, Hampshire  
GU14 8SP, UK

[info@conventions.org.uk](mailto:info@conventions.org.uk) [www.snof.com/redemption](http://www.snof.com/redemption)

# The Short(er) Fiction of Charles Stross

## A Personal Perspective by Carolyn Sleith



I first became aware of Charlie's work back in the early nineties when my husband told me that one of his computer textbook writing pals also wrote fiction and had a website with loads of free fiction. Now there's nothing I like more than free fiction so I went there straight away and discovered thousands and thousands of words.

One story that stuck in my mind was *Examination Night*. It was a wild gothic ride of what final exams would be like at a University of Black Magic. I thought that it was great and

unlike anything I expected a technical writer for a computer magazine to be producing. He made literary references and jokes that any fantasy fan would find laugh-out-loud funny. I spent a weekend reading through the rest of the stories on his site.

Another story that stuck in my mind, mostly because of the title, was *Yellow Snow* which is collected in *Toast* and was published in *Interzone*. *Yellow Snow* is a snappily written cyberpunk spoof. Despite being written 20 years ago, it hasn't aged and is still as funny and relevant as ever. *Yellow Snow* epitomises for me what Charlie does in his novels. He riffs on themes, styles and formulas in a knowing intelligent style to produce works that are chock full of ideas, but at the same time can be enjoyed by fans of all genres.

Charlie then started publishing novels which I began to read as they came out. He has been nominated for the Hugo Best Novel award six times, but has never yet won it. However his shorter fiction has enjoyed more success with *The Concrete Jungle* and *Palimpsest*, which have both



won the Hugo Award for Best Novella. *The Concrete Jungle* is the sequel to *The Atrocity Archive*, and appears in an extended edition of that book.

*Palimpsest* appears in Charlie's short story collection *Wireless*, and unlike most of the rest of Charlie's short fiction is not currently available online. It is a very ambitious short work exploring the same themes as Stephen Baxter's manifold novels of *Time* and *Space*. It also reminds me very strongly of Asimov's *The End of Eternity*. *Palimpsest* is a mind-blowing time travel paradox story where the hapless protagonist has had his life erased and over-written so many times that he no longer has any idea of who or what he is. In the afterword Charlie says that *Palimpsest* really wanted to be a novel and I can see why as the scope is so large, but I think that the more economic novella makes it more accessible and contributes to the reason why it rightly won a Hugo.

In the same way that Charlie's novels are crammed full of large scope ideas, so is his shorter fiction. It's how I came to know his longer works and I urge you to give it a whirl too. And come and buy him a pint at Satellite 3 and talk about his works with many of his fans and the man himself.

Carolyn Sleith

## Beagle 2

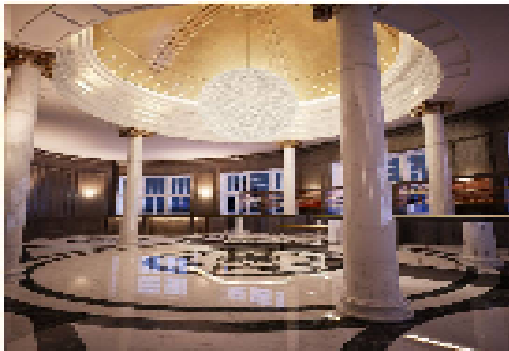
On the 25th December 2003, there was huge disappointment when communication was lost with Beagle 2 – the UK-led Mars lander – on her way to the planet's surface. It was assumed that she was gone for good. However, we are pleased to announce that Satellite 3 has found Beagle 2, alive and well, and that she has agreed to be our convention mascot. Please come and speak to her, pat her on the head, but please refrain from showing her Martian flat cats since she will chase them around until her solar panels run out!



# Hotel Information

## The Grand Central Hotel

The convention will be held in the Grand Central Hotel, 99 Gordon Street, Glasgow, United Kingdom, G1 3SF. The hotel has recently re-opened after a £20 million makeover bringing it back to a splendour it has not seen for many years – just wait till you see the chandelier that fills the five-floor drop in the main staircase!



Access to the hotel could not be easier for members arriving by train: there is a door straight into reception from Glasgow Central Station concourse. The hotel has special parking rates with a nearby NCP car park. There is a direct coach to the city centre from Glasgow Airport.

An exceptional room rate has been negotiated for convention members. Rooms will be available on Friday, Saturday or Sunday for a special rate of £95 per room per night, including full Scottish breakfast (double or single occupancy), Family rooms are also available at £115 p.r.p.n. There is a limited number of rooms available at this rate so please book early to avoid disappointment. To reserve accommodation, contact the Grand Central Hotel Reservation Team on 0141 240 3731 or email [grandcentral.reservations@principal-hayley.com](mailto:grandcentral.reservations@principal-hayley.com) quoting the group code 'Satellite 3'. The hotel has lifts to all floors and a number of disabled access rooms are available – again, please book early to ensure your needs are met.

We will have our own convention bar and are currently negotiating with the hotel for special rates on alcoholic and soft drinks, a supply of real ales and convention food.

Please check our website for all the latest information on the hotel. Further information about the many interesting things to do in Glasgow and alternative accommodation can be found at the Glasgow Tourist Information Centre (11 George Square) or by visiting [www.seeglasgow.com](http://www.seeglasgow.com)



# Membership List

As of 1900 hours on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011, we have 88 members (including guests and non-sentients).

No.	Type	Name	No.	Type	Name
76	A	Abbott, Jeanette (Jet)	6	A	Michael
40	S	Albert Pickard	70	A	Miri
12	A	Alligator Descartes	52	S	Missing Opossum
43	A	Ann Mair	27	A	Moss, Miriam (Miri)
61	A	Barbara Stewart	66	A	Mulholland, Graham (Magic Graham)
59	N	Beagle 2	31	A	O'Neill, Ken (Ken O'Neill)
36	A	Beel, Catriona	38	A	O'Neill, Morag
14	S	BigFriendlyDave	35	A	Phil
72	A	Caccarelli, Gianni (dakkar)	41	S	Pickard, Katherine
33	A	Carlile, David (DC)	13	C	Pog
1	G	Charles Stross	71	S	Proven, Liam (Liam)
84	A	Chidwick, Noel	44	S	Raistllynn
7	A	Christine	28	A	Raj
83	A	Crawshaw, Chris	22	A	Red
54	A	Crawshaw, Richard (Richard C)	69	A	Reynolds, Patricia (Pat)
49	S	Cuddles	68	A	Reynolds, Trevor (Trevor)
32	A	Dalg	56	A	Rowse, Yvonne
82	A	Delessert, Chantal	29	S	Sacha
86	A	Desidann	45	S	Sandymintheus
42	A	Dobson, Neil	16	A	Scott, Jamie
24	A	Docherty, Vincent	67	A	Stephenson, Richard
64	A	Doug S	30	A	Stevie
11	A	Dyllanne	60	A	Stewart, John
26	A	ED Buckley	53	S	The Emperor Penguin
85	A	Eddie Cochrane	88	A	Thompson, Jean
65	A	Elsie Donald	48	S	Throgg the Despicable
63	A	Emma P	81	A	Toner, Mark (Mentor of the Pahom)
9	A	Esmarelda	74	A	Tony
2	G	Feorag NicBhríde	80	A	Tony Rogers
3	G	Fluff	73	A	Wendy King
19	A	Gaspode	87	A	Whitaker, Lynn
75	A	Gibson, David (Domar Wuer)	20	A	Whitehead, Nik (Nik)
25	S	Gibson, Gary			
17	N	Gizmo			
62	A	Heather			
23	A	Helenex			
5	L	Iain M Banks			
57	A	Ian Sorensen			
10	C	Jade Rabbit			
4	L	Ken MacLeod			
21	A	Ksimes			
47	A	Lawrence Osborn			
8	A	Mad Elf			
18	A	Medany, Rita (Gaspodia)			

Membership Types	
G	Guest
L	Life Member
A	Attending Member
S	Supporting Member
C	Child
I	Infant
N	Non-sentient (Toys, Mascots)



# OLYMPUS 2012

## GUESTS OF HONOUR

GEORGE RR MARTIN

PAUL CORNELL

STEPH SWAINSTON

## FAN GUESTS OF HONOUR

MARGARET AUSTIN & MARTIN EASTERBROOK

THE 2012 UK SF EASTERCON

APRIL 6TH - 9TH 2012

RADISSON EDWARDIAN HOTEL

HEATHROW - LONDON



[WWW.OLYMPUS2012.ORG](http://WWW.OLYMPUS2012.ORG)