

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BBC2 TV PROGRAMME OF BOOKER McCONNELL PRIZE DINNER

(as discussed by CJB and Robin Lough, Producer)

CJB's COPY 302  
[cc: MHC, JAN, M. GOFF, ]  
G. BRYMER

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Monday 19 October

Tables erected by Stationers' Hall staff

Tuesday 20 October

am/early pm

Lighting, camera, and all BBC technical arrangements.

3.15

Record interview with Robert Kee and Malcolm Bradbury.

To be timed so as to not disrupt MB's plans for judges' meeting.

3.45 - 5.15

Camera rehearsal with Robert Kee.

CJB to let Robin Lough have seating plan on Monday for this.

6.30

Record interview with Robert Kee and Molly Keane.

Molly Keane known to Robert Kee. This is the pre-announcement interview, "what does it feel like to know you might win", etc. To be used at some stage in programme.

7.20

Guests from Stock Room to Hall.

BBC floor managers to handle. First course will be on tables. Wine waitresses serve wine.

7.25

TRANSMISSION

Titles and opening music.

Robin Lough assures CJB that opening and closing titles say "Booker McConnell Prize".

Introduction by Robert Kee)  
Brief history of the Prize)

Script conference with Robert Kee, Thursday 15 October. Script to be available after typing for CJB to check for accuracy on 16 October. All refs in script will be to "Booker McConnell Prize Kee using autocue.

Interview with Robert Kee and Ron Pollard, Ladbroke's.

Description of how the betting has changed over the weeks. Apparently, interest has been greater this year than ever before. Robin Lough assures that this will in no way trivialise or detract from the Prize.

Summary of nominated books and their writers. VT Insert Malcolm Bradbury.

Critical review of the books/  
interview with judge(s).

7.37

Michael Caine and Malcolm Bradbury announce result.

Martyn Goff has asked MB to invite winner to come forward to receive Prize.

Winner receives Prize.

May say a few words in response.

Robert Kee talks to winner and judges.

Winner will be released for Kaleidoscope (Radio 4) interview, and any other radio interviews that must be done before dinner. (Radio interviews to be concluded by 7.50).

7.49

Conclusion from Robert Kee.  
Closing credits.

Robin Lough checking BBC policy on sponsorship credit for BMC.

7.50

End of Transmission.

Winner's guest (or winner's publishers if winner not present) invited to take seat at top table.

Ring & Brymer serve fish course.

OTHER NOTES:

- (i) NBL has written to judges and nominated authors advising them of TV arrangements.
- (ii) TV arrangements in the event of an author who is not attending winning the Prize are:  
Lessing/Spark - not available for recorded interviews - BBC library material to be used.  
D M Thomas - being interviewed Thursday 15 October. Telephone no in Canada also available - live telephone conversation being considered by BBC.
- (iii) Robin Lough considering whether interview with MHC should feature in introductory part of programme. Interview could be live or pre-recorded on VT. Will advise CJB by Friday 16 October.
- (iv) Robin Lough would be happy to explain his plans to MHC in person or on telephone, Friday/Monday?
- (v) Monitor screens will show guests the VT inserts in the live transmission.

