

AUTO 2015 ASSEMBLY



ATTENDEE
INFORMATION PACK

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Auto Assembly 2015 Attendee Information Pack! This guide will have all the information you'll need to help you to get the most out of the convention ranging from how to get to the hotel, where to park for those of you who are driving, what to expect from the convention itself - basically everything you need to enjoy the weekend to the fullest!

As always, we won't be sending out your passes for the convention - we have them ready for you to collect during the convention weekend itself which is a far safer and more secure process (and also stops anything getting lost in the post!). If you're new to Auto Assembly, we'll explain how this works later on. However, we're sure you're eager to get

as much information as you can about the convention...

If there is anything we've missed out, or if you have any more questions, please feel free to get in touch with us at any time as we'll be updating this Information Pack a number of times over the coming months right up until the end of July 2015.

Every year we ensure that this guide is available directly through our website for downloading and prior to the convention we will be emailing it to as many of you as possible as well. We felt that this would be much easier for all of you to access, and will allow us to update it if things change and offer bonus content if we are able to! It also helps us to reduce costs meaning we can invest more back into the convention.

This pack is going to be filled with plenty of information about the convention itself along with some beginners tips as well to help you get the most out of the weekend and it will be your comprehensive guide to Auto Assembly 2015 and we hope that this will be an invaluable booklet for all of you.

While many of you will have ready previous editions of this guide, it IS updated and revised every year so please try to spare the time to read it as it will have brand new important information relative to 2015's event.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for booking for the convention and for those of you who haven't booked yet, we hope that this Information Book and the information on the website may persuade you that Birmingham is the place to be in August 2015!

Anyway, thank you for reading this and we look forward to seeing you at the convention!

Simon Plumbe
Committee Head, Auto Assembly 2015



"Bricks and mortar" store opening soon in Birmingham.



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THE VENUE / TRANSPORT

The convention is taking place in the Palace Suite of the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel which is located on the site of the NEC complex a few miles outside of Birmingham City Centre. It is a four star hotel and is one of the largest convention hotels in the country with 790 bedrooms, and is just a few minutes walk from Birmingham International Station and is easily accessible from all over the UK, no matter how you choose to go to the event.

A lot of you will be travelling from all over the UK (and many of you from overseas!) so we want to try to make it as easy as possible for you to get to the event.

First, if you need the hotel's contact details for any reason, or want to look up the route to the hotel on your SatNav, the address is:

Hilton Birmingham Metropole
National Exhibition Centre
Birmingham
B40 1PP
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)121 780 4242
web: www.birminghammetropole.com

Anyway, the first port of call for most of you (unless you are driving) is to make your way to the Birmingham International Rail Station...

Rail Travel

Birmingham International Station is on the main cross country line and can be reached from most parts of the UK. Services running from the North and South stop at Birmingham International frequently but if your train doesn't, then Birmingham International is just a 10-minute ride away from Birmingham New Street Station. There are about 6 services running every hour, with both local and long distance services stopping at the station.

When it comes to booking your journey, we would recommend that you book your tickets in advance to get the best prices possible and it is always worth enquiring at your local ticket offices about the cheapest deals.

The National Rail Enquiries line (08457 484950) usually quotes standard ticket prices for your journey and not the cheapest options. In some cases, two single tickets purchased in advance works out cheaper than a return ticket! To check times and get a rough idea on prices, visit www.qjump.co.uk

There are also cheaper deals if you are willing to change trains and travel indirectly to Birmingham and this also includes the option to split your journey buying multiple tickets for each part of your journey to save more money.

Road

Travelling by road, if you are driving down from the North get onto the M6, then the M42 and exit at junction 6.

If you are heading up to Birmingham from the South then travel up on the M40, then the M42 and again exit at Junction 6.

Alternatively, travel on the M1, the M6, M40 then onto the M42 and exit at Junction 6.

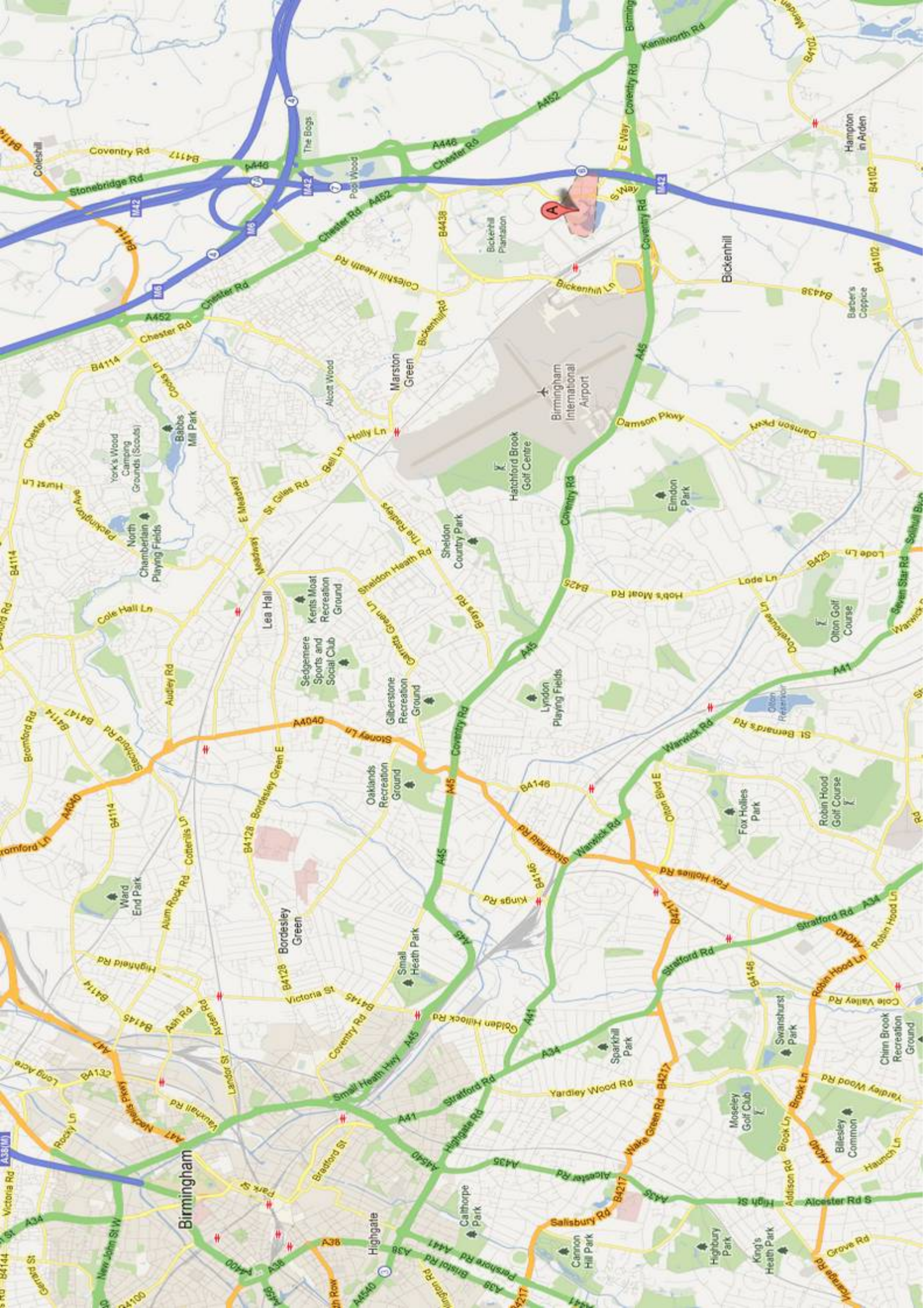
The Hilton is approximately 200 yards from Junction 6 off the M42 and the A45.

Car Parking

If you are travelling by car, the Hilton has 600 secure parking spaces of its own with reduced rates for hotel residents of £8 a night (£15 for non-residents). The car park is also Park Mark certified (see www.parkmark.co.uk for more information) for added peace of mind.

To qualify for the reduced rate, you will need to present your parking ticket to the Hilton's reception **before** departure where the ticket will be validated. This will then authorise the lower parking rate of £8 per day compared with the standard £15 rate.

As the Hilton is located on the NEC complex, there are also several thousand additional parking spaces nearby should you wish to park a little further away!



Coach

The main coach station that operates from Birmingham is Birmingham Coach Station (formerly known as Digbeth Coach Station) and this is located in Birmingham City Centre at Mill Lane, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DB.

The station is operated by National Express and for details of prices and timetables for services running from there you can visit their website at www.nationalexpress.co.uk. We'd recommend booking your journey in advance to get the best reductions on your fare.

From Birmingham Coach Station, you will need to make your way to New Street Station which is about 10 minutes walk from the coach station and then you would need to get a train to Birmingham International Station from New Street Station.

In addition, there is the Megabus service that operates from most major cities. This needs to be booked online and offers single journeys from £2 plus a small booking fee! While the timetable is limited, this offers incredible value for money. Facilities are limited on board and it is a non-stop service, but if you are looking for cheap travel, it is certainly an option worth considering!

Megabus offers services running directly to Birmingham International Airport so it will get you even closer to Auto Assembly 2015 so it's definitely an option worth considering. You can get your tickets from www.megabus.co.uk

Please check with your coach operator though as some journeys will stop at Birmingham International Airport so this may be an option for you rather than travelling to Birmingham City Centre and then back out again towards the Hilton.



Air

If you who are flying in to Birmingham for Auto Assembly 2015 then head for Birmingham International Airport (BHX). From there, you can get a free monorail shuttle service to Birmingham International Rail Station where you can get one of the Hilton's courtesy buses straight to the hotel!

From Birmingham International Station

The Hilton is about 5-10 minutes walk from the station, but the hotel does provide a free shuttle bus for all of its residents to / from the hotel and to the station!

For details on how to get there, we have recorded an instructional walk-through video that you can see on our Youtube Channel!

HOTEL ACCOMODATION

The Hilton is a **massive** hotel with 790 bedrooms so there will be plenty of space for everyone! We have negotiated some incredible room rates with the Hilton for the convention and these are just £54 per night for a single room and £66 a night for a twin or double inclusive of breakfast. They do have a **very** limited number of family rooms available on request.

These rates are just for Auto Assembly 2015 attendees so please book your tickets for the convention first before booking your hotel rooms. You can book your rooms at the discount rate online using the link that will be sent to you once the micro site is live.

The hotel will also offer us a discount rate on bar prices on presentation of your Auto Assembly pass but more on this later...

For those of you who opt to stay in Birmingham City Centre instead, there are train journeys running six times an hour, taking between 7-10 minutes to get to the Hilton that cost as little as £3 return so this could be the most economical option for many of you attending instead of parking in the Hilton's car park if you are getting to Birmingham by car.

Should you need help at any time regarding your booking, our Room Bookings team is on hand to help any of you with accommodation or travel questions. They can be reached at roombookings@autoassembly.org.uk

One thing that we must stress is that while it may be extremely tempting for some of you wanting to save money to have extra to spend on toys, you **must not** stay in a friend's hotel room unless they have booked suitable accommodation. If anyone is found by the Hilton to be offering space in their hotel rooms to people who have not paid to stay in the Hilton - whether this is sleeping on the floor, chairs, airbeds or by any other means - the Hilton has every right to have those people removed from the hotel **immediately**.

As you will be in breach of the contract you entered into with the hotel, potentially they may not be obliged to offer any form of refund for any nights accommodation that may have been pre-paid and could ban you from booking accommodation there in the future.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

We are striving to make your experience of Auto Assembly 2015 as enjoyable as

possible and admission to the convention itself as quick and easy as possible.

Once you have booked your tickets for Auto Assembly 2015 you will be sent a booking confirmation email. **Please make sure that you keep this email safe as you will need this to gain admission to the convention...**

What you will need to do is bring a **PRINT OUT** of this email with you to the convention. From Friday morning onwards you can then come along to the convention's Main Hall (the Hilton's **Monarch Suite**) where you will be able to come up to a dedicated Registration Desk located in the Monarch's Foyer area, where you will be able to collect your personalised convention pass and Goodie Bag ready for the convention itself!

There is no rush to collect your pass as it will be available for you to collect no matter what time you come along (even if you are not able to come along until the Saturday or Sunday) and all of the goodie bags are identical so it doesn't matter whether you are first or last, you'll still get the same free gifts!

You can collect your packs at *any time* between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm on Friday, after which time the Registration Desk will be **closed** for one hour until we re-open the hall for the Friday Night Programme when the convention starts. If you haven't picked up your pass by 5:00 pm then **don't worry** as you'll be able to collect your pass from 6:00 pm when the hall re-opens until approximately 7:30 pm and then again on Saturday / Sunday.

Please note that there will be **no** early pass collection service on Thursday evening - we just want to be able to relax in the bar before the convention starts and have a bit of time before the mad rush starts!

PASS COLLECTION TIMES

Friday

10:00 - All pre-registered attendees

17:00 - Pass collection ends

18:00 - All **weekend** pre-registered attendees

18:00 - New **weekend** ticket sales
19:30 - Pass collection ends

Saturday

08:30 - All pre-registered attendees
09:30 - New ticket sales
13:00 - Registration Desk closes

Sunday

08:30 - All pre-registered attendees
09:30 - New ticket sales

The Registration Desk will be set up at the entrance to the Main Hall in its spacious Foyer area and even if you only have a one-day pass, you will still be able to pick up your Passes etc. on the Friday (daytime only) but you won't be able to gain admission to the convention until the day that your Pass is valid for.

Please bear this in mind when coming to collect your passes and ensure that you arrive at the correct time. If you have a single day pass and come to collect it on Friday evening, please do not take out your frustration on our committee or volunteers when refused. They will be extremely busy processing pass requests for weekend attendees. We will not tolerate any abusive behaviour towards members of our team and such behaviour will result in ejection from the event.

Once the doors open for the convention, you will still be able to pick up your passes if you haven't already been able to from the Registration Desk but you may have a slightly longer wait.

If you forget your confirmation email, report to the Registration Desk as normal and let one of our team know. We will ask you a few questions and ask you to show us some form of ID with your name and / or address on (debit/credit card, driving licence etc) and once we are satisfied of your identity we will be able to present you with your pack so you can continue and enjoy everything that Auto Assembly 2015 has to offer!

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

First up will be your pass and this is the most important thing that you will need!

Please make sure that you wear your Pass at **ALL TIMES** during the convention while you are in the hotel as you will **not** be allowed into any of the convention rooms without it, even if any of our team recognise you so please do not be offended if you are refused admission to any part of Auto Assembly 2015 if you are not wearing it.

Also, do not obscure it with clothing, keep it in your pockets or anything else. Having the pass with you is not enough to gain admission to the convention. If we can't see it, you don't get in!

Next up is Issue 16 of our convention magazine, The Cybertronian Times. We're doing something a bit special with this year's magazine as it's also going to double up as the Convention Programme for the weekend so inside you'll find details on all the function rooms that we're using, a full schedule for the weekend and a handy map showing you where everything is. Keep this with you and you won't miss a thing!

You'll find the magazine inside our legendary Goodie Bag which is making a welcome return for 2015. In addition to The Cybertronian Times will be the Auto Assembly 2015 convention comic, at least four convention exclusive postcards and we're already working on some more surprises for all of you and we'll be announcing these as they are confirmed.

Please note that only those with Adult, Senior Citizen, Youth, Guest, and Dealer Passes will get the bags - please note that because they receive free passes to the convention, Under 6s will not get Goodie Bags.

After you have picked up all of this, it's up to you what you do all weekend so enjoy the convention but if you do have any questions, feel free to ask any of our staff on the desk!

The convention will start at around 6:00 pm on Friday for weekend attendees, 9:30 am on Saturday, and about 9:30 am on Sunday.

For those of you with staff, volunteer, guest, dealer, press and other passes, you will be able to access the convention at all times including the set-up hours indicated on the website.

SPOT PRIZES

At random intervals throughout the weekend we may run random spot prize draws so please listen carefully to any announcements that are made on stage. If you're one of our lucky winners, all you'll need to do is head over to our Control Desk and see what you've won!

CONVENTION EXCLUSIVES

Should there be any exclusives produced for Auto Assembly 2015, we will be looking into the possibility of offering pre-orders but these will be controlled to ensure that all attendees have an equal chance to obtain them and it will be at the discretion of our exclusive partners. In terms of sales at the convention itself, stocks will be allocated over the whole weekend for each day to ensure that all attendees will have an equal chance to get them.

While there is no general Friday trading at the convention, a limited trading period will take place for exclusives so you will be able to get a first chance at getting the great items we will have on offer.

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND!

We are using several function rooms within the Hilton but fortunately they are all located on the ground floor and are easy to find.

More details of what will be in each room will be in The Cybertronian Times and we will also be updating this guide with a full map

showing you where they are in relation to each other!

We will be using the Hilton's Monarch Suite as our Main Hall, the King's Suite for our Saturday night programme, and additional rooms for our Alternative Programme and our convention food court, Swerve's Diner.

YOUR FIRST CONVENTION?

Finally, if Auto Assembly 2015 is your first Transformers convention, don't worry. We will have a Welcome Team on hand who are ready to help you! They will be available to answer any of your questions about the convention and make you all feel at home!

AUTO ASSEMBLY 2015 - KNOW YOUR PASS

Everyone will have a personalised pass for Auto Assembly 2015 which is enclosed with this pack. You will notice that the pass has a coloured strip on it and different information all over it, but what does it all mean? Well now you can find out by taking a look at the brand new pass design for 2015...

This colour-coded bar indicates the type and duration of ticket that you have



Your name!

Your ticket number!
Essential for purchasing exclusives, our auction etc.

The rear of the pass will feature a summary of the key programme items taking place over the weekend.

This will not be a full schedule, just some of the highlights but the full programme will be featured in your convention magazine along with a map to help you find all the rooms in the Hilton.



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ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR BEGINNERS...

We say that this is advice for those of you attending Auto Assembly for the first time, but many of these tips will come in handy for all you regular convention goers as well, no matter how many years you've been attending Auto Assembly. We would like to thank everyone at www.fullmetalhero.com for their help with this guide.

Money, Money, Money...

One of the first things that you will need for Auto Assembly 2015 is money... and as much of it as possible! It's never too early to start saving for the convention, but rather than trying to put a set amount aside each week or month, there's an easy way to save up without really trying...

Whenever you go shopping you always come home with pockets full of loose change. Well, it's time to put that change to good use! Get a jar and put all your loose change in that jar at the end of every day (or every couple of days) and watch it grow. Decide what coins you want to put in there and you'll be amazed at how soon it mounts up!

As well as that, why not try a "pound a day"? Take another jar and put a one pound coin in it each day. It may not sound like much, but considering how much time there is to go until the convention, it's a lot of cash you could save up!

By the end of August 2014, just by putting all of his 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins in a jar at the end of each day and a pound coin every day, Simon had saved up almost £50 towards Auto Assembly 2015 - an average of over well over £2 a day. By the time Auto Assembly 2015 comes around, he's expecting to have a budget of around £750 for himself and his family!

Cash

It goes without saying that you should set yourself a budget for the weekend and stick to it! Most dealers at Auto Assembly will only

take cash so if you need to get any more out of the cash machine, you can either use the one in the Hilton (although this does charge for withdrawals) or we'd recommend that you take a short walk to the NEC complex to use one of the free cash machines in there.

If you can set a budget before you leave to go to the convention, then even better but try to plan this in advance so you have so much for food and drink, so much for toys and keep your money for your hotel bill separate so you can still pay it all at the end of the weekend!

One thing we would strongly recommend is to try to stick to cash wherever possible. Not only will this prevent you from spending beyond your means but also in 2013 the Hilton's cash point actually ran out of money part way through the weekend. The last thing we want is for any of you to find your Transformers holy grail and not have enough money on you to buy it just because you can't get to your money. It goes without saying that you should be alert at all times though and keep your money and valuables safe at all times.

Baggage

If you can manage, bring a large suitcase with you, but don't fill it! That way you'll have plenty of space for your goodie bag and everything that you buy at the convention! Also, any space that has been taken up with snacks can also be used for your purchases!

Bring a small bag or rucksack as well to use as hand luggage for the train or bus if you're travelling by public transport. You can use this for the essential travelling snacks and to keep all the other journey essentials - comics, books, PlayStation Vita or 3DS etc. as well as packing anything with you that you want autographed by any of our guests!

Finally, try to pack a few carrier bags with you. Dealers don't always have enough with them so it's easier to have a couple on you than to struggle carrying toys around in your arms or running back up to your hotel room every few minutes and of course it's environmentally friendly!

For those of you who are flying to Auto Assembly, try to make sure that all of your clothes that you bring with you will fit into your carry-on luggage (ideally a small rucksack) and leave your suitcase relatively empty. When it comes to travelling home, you can then carry all your clothes and essentials in your rucksack with you onto the plane and all your purchases in your case... but try to make sure you have brought some bubble wrap or other packing material with you for added protection! Just don't forget the luggage weight limit so try to pack some travel scales if you can!

Clothes

Auto Assembly isn't a formal event so it's not something you really need to dress up for. Pack light so just bring enough for what you will be wearing but please remember that it is Summer and it can get warm with a lot of people around in the convention hall so expect to change clothes during the day!

Depending on how you are travelling to Birmingham and what time of day, the chances are you won't need a coat, but if you do then try to make it as lightweight as possible. Best thing to do is check the weather forecast before you set out and make your mind up after that.

Food And Drink

Remember that the hotel has a policy on functions not allowing food to be brought in from outside to be eaten on the premises. Well, technically this only applies to food that you want to eat in PUBLIC areas - namely the hotel bars, restaurant, reception, foyer, and all of the convention areas / function rooms but there is nothing to stop you from bringing your own snacks, drinks etc. for your hotel room but unless you purchased it **IN** the hotel, then it **MUST** stay in your room.

Certainly, if you want to keep your food costs down, there is no reason why you can't bring some Pot Noodles or other snacks with you and keep them in your room! Just remember though - your hotel room may have a kettle in it, but you won't get a microwave or fridge! Equally, if you want to go to Subway, or any

of the food outlets nearby then there is nothing stopping you from doing that and eating back in your hotel room.

One thing we have found as a long-standing convention attendee is that you seldom find the time to stop and eat during a busy convention day... so take advantage of the hotel breakfasts! The buffet breakfasts mean that you can have cereal, toast, tea or coffee, fruit juice **and** a cooked breakfast and after all of that you won't **want** to eat until the early evening!

For your journey, again we all want to keep our costs down when it comes to travelling to the convention so we have more money to spend so remember to pack some snacks with you for your train / coach journey. If you have to buy them on the way from a station, you'll end up paying a lot more than you need to!

Food And Drink Prices

We do appreciate that some of you have concerns about the cost of food and drink in the Hilton. This is something we are continually trying to work with the hotel on to make the convention as affordable as possible for all of you.

First, one thing we would like to remind everyone is that the Hilton is a hotel and please remember that even with the convention discount, drinks prices **will** be more expensive than you will find in your local pub. Ignoring the fact that the Hilton is a four-star hotel, you should expect higher prices than you would at your "local" and this should be expected in any grade of hotel and this is unavoidable for any convention venue.

One very important thing we would strongly recommend is that you allow a percentage of your overall budget for food and drink. Many of you do tell us that you think of Auto Assembly as your annual holiday so please try to think of it as such and keep **some** money aside for food and drink as you would with any holiday!

Compared with Auto Assembly 2009 - 2011, the Hilton is considerably cheaper as a hotel

so if you take the approach that your accommodation savings could go towards your food / drink budget, that should work quite well for most of you!

Swerves

Our dedicated convention bar and food court, Swerve's Bar And Diner, has been a massive hit with all of you for the last couple of years and this is set to continue offering a great selection of food throughout the weekend at really affordable prices for everyone.

We're hoping to make some announcements very soon about prices in Swerves along with details on the type of food that will be on offer, and we also hope that the extended opening hours from 2014 will return.

Finally, all being well we will continue to get the bar discounts once again in the Hilton's Lounge Bar...!

Personal Hygiene

This may sound like an obvious thing to state, but please remember that conventions can become very hot and very crowded places where a lot of fans will be in close proximity with each other for several days so please bear this in mind for the weekend.

If not for yourself, please think of others all weekend and try to remember your personal care during the convention weekend. Wear lightweight clothing that will give your body room to breathe and keep your body temperature comfortable and minimise sweating and make sure that you not only bring a supply of deodorant, but take advantage of the facilities in your hotel room and shower / take a bath daily, more if you feel the need to as it will get hot!

One thing that we can't stress enough is that Auto Assembly does take place during the Summer and as tempting as it may be to take extra long baths to try to stay cool, you must put your personal safety first and be aware that not only should you not spend too long in the bath but be aware that young children should not be left unsupervised at any times.

Other Things

When it comes to packing for your trip to Birmingham, remember that your hotel room will have its own towels, shampoo, soap etc. so you won't need to waste space packing these - just don't forget your toothbrush (although don't worry if you do as the Hilton's shop sells these!)

However, the rooms only have a basic supply of tea, coffee, milk etc so if you are planning on drinking a lot in your hotel room then it may be worth packing extra coffee, sweetener, powdered milk etc. with you.

If you haven't already done it, book your train tickets in advance and search for the cheapest options available. Some routes offer cheaper fares using two singles and you can sometimes get even cheaper deals if you split your journey using multiple tickets for the same route. It's not as complicated as it sounds and if you're travelling quite a distance, the savings add up!

If you're bringing anything valuable such as your digital camera, possibly pack some bubblewrap to protect it on the way home. This will also come in handy for any loose toys that you might buy, and is a good idea for those of you who don't worry about keeping boxes!

Same with sketches and autographs... if you don't want them damaged, bring something with you to keep them safe in!

Also, we recommend that you don't bring a laptop, tablet with you or other valuables in case of loss, damage or theft. If you do because of work for a website, forum etc, you do so at your own risk.

Finally, and this is the most important one of all, bring a print out of your booking confirmation email! If you can't find this email, you must let us know by 12th August 2015 so we can send a replacement out to you.

After this point we won't have access to all of the confirmation emails that we have sent to all of you as we will be in our final stages of preparation to leave for the Hilton and they

will be stored on our main PC system which we won't have with us.

If you don't bring this with you, it will delay collection of your passes and goodie bags and entry into the convention while our team members conduct some basic ID checks.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

While we want everyone to enjoy the convention, we also want to stress that the convention will be a zero tolerance zone. Please remember that all of our team give up their free time to run Auto Assembly and do not get paid for doing this.

We appreciate that there will be times during the convention when things may not always go according to plan or when things may not run to schedule but please do not take your frustrations out on our team or you will be asked to leave the convention and you will **not** be issued with a refund.

This also applies to treatment of our dealers, guests and behaviour towards other attendees. Auto Assembly is intended to be a fun and friendly weekend so please treat others the way you want them to treat you.

We understand that not everyone in the Transformers fan community gets along, but if there are people at the convention you do not like, simply avoid them.

Equally, we would ask all attendees to bear in mind that although Auto Assembly is a social event - with the current size of the convention it can be difficult for everyone to have time to meet and chat with everyone that they may want to. This doesn't necessarily mean that people don't want to socialise with each other but that it can be difficult with the sheer number of people in attendance, especially as many people will only get to see some of their friends once a year at Auto Assembly.

In light of this, we want to make it clear that we will **not** tolerate **any** attendee that wishes to come along to the convention with the intention of causing trouble for the committee, dealers or other attendees.

Please note that if anyone does cause you any distress or tries to start any arguments or issues, please do **not** retaliate - simply ignore them and report them to the nearest Committee Member or Volunteer and we will take whatever action is appropriate.

As a convention, we will take steps to deal with any unacceptable behaviour from any convention attendees so we must request that you refrain from responding to anything no matter how great the temptation may be.

By refraining from doing anything yourself, it will make things easier for our team to identify the offending party. Otherwise we may have to deal with **everyone** involved equally.

Please also bear in mind that with the large numbers in attendance at the convention, our guests will only be able to spend a limited amount of time with each attendee during autograph sessions. While most will be happy to pose for photographs, they will not be able to spend a lot of time answering questions nor will you be able to conduct interviews at their autograph tables.

Also, please do not attempt to make audio or video recordings of guests without their knowledge and/or permission. Should you do this, we reserve the right to confiscate any recording equipment until the end of the convention and erase any recordings you have made.

Finally regarding guests, if you are asked to move on by any of our Guest Liaison Team for time reasons, please respect their requests as there will be other fans waiting to meet them. We are expecting over 1,000 people to attend Auto Assembly 2015 and as we are sure you can appreciate, that is a lot of people who want to see our guests!

We do want to stress that we take matters of this nature extremely seriously and as a convention we have issued several lifetime bans against individuals based on their conduct at the event. As such, please help us to keep Auto Assembly the fun, friendly event that everyone knows it to be.

WARNING TO THIEVES!

We know that there have been attempts made by some individuals at past events to steal items from Dealers Tables. This is **NOT** acceptable behaviour. Should we find anyone attempting to steal anything from the convention, you will be apprehended by one of our convention staff or volunteers and a citizen's arrest will be made and you **WILL** be handed over to the police and charges will be pressed against you.

We also want to stress that there are people in attendance at the convention who are serving members of the police or armed forces and who **will** have the power to arrest anyone found stealing from the convention.

Please don't attempt to spoil the convention for others by trying anything - the convention is being photographed and filmed continually over the weekend, so even if you are not caught straight away, we **WILL** be able to identify you so don't think that you will be able to get away with it.

In addition to any legal action that will be taken, we will implement a name and shame policy against anyone caught stealing from the convention, and those found guilty will receive a lifetime ban from the convention, and their details will also be passed on to other conventions and events globally.

URGENT - PERSONAL SAFETY

While having fun is the top priority for all of you at Auto Assembly 2015, we must ask all of you to remember your personal safety at all times while around the hotel and convention itself.

Personal Belongings

Please keep these safe at all times. Keep wallets, purses and mobile phones out of sight and do not leave any of your belongings unattended for any period of time. We can not be held responsible for any losses that may be incurred by any attendees.

Hot Weather

Auto Assembly takes place in August. In the Summer. Unusually, we have been fortunate enough to experience hot weather during convention weekends and we want all of you to take extra precautions while you are at the convention. Please make sure you have plenty to drink and stay hydrated at all times.

If you feel hot or light headed, try to get plenty of air either outside of the convention halls or outside the hotel's main entrance and please - if you decided to use the hotel's pool at any time to cool down, please do not use this alone or allow your children to use this unsupervised at any time.

As we have said before, if you use the facilities in your hotel rooms please do not take excessive or lengthy baths to try to stay cool. Not only should you not spend too long in the bath but be aware that young children should not be left unsupervised at any times.

Alcohol

While we know that many of you come along to the convention and enjoy drinking while there, please remember **NOT** to use the hotel pool or gym after drinking for your own safety.

General

If you do feel ill or light-headed at any time, please see any of our convention team or one of our first aiders or the hotel staff who have their own on-site first aid team who will be able to provide immediate assistance.

Pendigo Lake

Adjacent to the hotel is Pendigo Lake. This is used for boating during the Summer months and this is **not** to be used for swimming or any other purpose no matter how tempting it may be in the hot weather.

GENERAL CONVENTION RULES

While we don't want to spoil anyone's enjoyment of Auto Assembly 2015, we feel that there are a few ground rules that need to

be set down to ensure that everyone gets the most out of the convention with a minimal amount of fuss and problems!

Passes

Most importantly, you **must** wear your convention pass and have it displayed **clearly at all times** during the convention weekend. If we can not see your pass being displayed you will not be allowed entry into any of the convention rooms and you will be asked to put your pass on.

If you have forgotten or lost your pass, you will need to have a replacement pass produced (a surcharge may be made for this) and if you have left your pass in your hotel room, then you will need to retrieve it before you will be allowed back into the convention.

Passes must **not** be obscured by clothing in any way. Attendees must not wear t-shirts, jumpers or other clothing over their passes. Failure to display your passes clearly, will result in you being asked to leave the convention rooms until your pass is being clearly displayed.

Dealers may also request to see your passes when making certain purchases as an initial proof of age for certain restricted items in addition to other proofs of identity so please cooperate with them if you are asked.

Do not try to get friends into the convention who have forgotten their passes by offering to "vouch" for them. Even if we - as committee members - know the attendees, we will not be able to allow anyone in without proper identification.

Animals

Animals are not allowed at Auto Assembly, with the exception of guide dogs and hearing dogs. Obviously, if they are plastic and transform, then this will be fine!

While the Hilton itself does allow pets with prior agreement, we can not allow them into the convention so please ensure that they are being looked after properly in your hotel room or being cared for appropriately.

Dress Code

Auto Assembly does not have an official dress code so please feel to wear whatever you feel comfortable in. However, please remember that Auto Assembly is a **family friendly** event so please dress appropriately. Do not wear any items of clothing with offensive slogans on or of a sexually explicit nature, or that are revealing.

Bags

Please make sure that you keep all your bags with you at all times or left in your hotel room. Auto Assembly cannot be held responsible for bags etc. that may go missing or become lost. Please do not ask us on the Registration Desk or Control Desk if we will look after your bags for you as we will not be able to help.

Where possible, please try to store bags in your hotel room rather than carrying them around the convention all weekend. This will ensure that there is the maximum amount of space in the hall for everyone!

For those of you not staying in the Hilton, we are looking into the possibility of a "luggage room" but we will announce more details on this once we have more information.

Cameras

Please feel free to bring cameras and video cameras with you to Auto Assembly. We'd love to see any photos or video footage you might take during the weekend. Please try to limit the amount of flash photography that you take during the guest talks, as the constant flashes can become uncomfortable.

Unless specifically stated in the programme, photography is allowed throughout the weekend and during most programme items.

However, as you take photographs of the convention, please be aware that not all attendees are happy to have their pictures taken so please ask permission before you take photographs of anyone, especially the cosplayers in attendance.

Video Cameras

Please feel free to bring any video cameras with you to the event to make recordings for your own **personal** use. We would appreciate copies of any footage you might take for us to put onto the Auto Assembly Youtube Channel if at all possible. Because of the space they take up, tripods are not to be used without prior clearance and you may be asked to dismantle them by our staff.

Note that there may be certain programme items that should not be recorded, but we will make these known in advance. This will include the majority of the Saturday evening programme.

Please keep the space between the seating and the stage clear at all times as this will be used by our own official camera crew who will be recording the event.

Children

Feel free to bring your children along to Auto Assembly - it's never too early to encourage kids to get into Transformers! All we ask is that you keep them under control and prevent them from running loose around the venue, especially near the dealers and displays!

We do ask that **all** children **MUST** be registered for the convention, including those under the age of six. If you are planning on bringing young children with you, even newborn babies, you must get a pass for them for the event or we will not be properly covered with our event insurance.

From 2012 onwards, children under the age of 16 are not permitted at the convention unless accompanied by an adult. Not only have we introduced this policy for the safety of all of our attendees (as we can not be held responsible for other people's children) but it is also a policy of the Hilton that they do not allow unaccompanied minors in the hotel.

Also, we advise parents that after 9:00 pm on the Saturday evening, the programme may not be suitable for younger children. Adults will be drinking during the evening programme in the King's Suite, and we can

not guarantee that their conduct would be appropriate for younger children to observe.

The Friday evening may also have programme items shown after 9:00 pm that may not be suitable for younger attendees and we can not be held responsible for the behaviour of all of our attendees who may have been in the hotel's bars so again we would suggest that parents consider whether they feel that it is appropriate for their younger children to remain in the main convention hall after this time.

We are not preventing children from attending events after these times, but parental discretion is advised and Auto Assembly can not be held responsible for the conduct of our attendees.

Finally, please do not attempt to vouch for unaccompanied children who ask for your assistance in gaining admission to the convention. We had an incident in 2012 when a child attempted to gain admission to the convention who was under 16 and an adult attendee who did not know them offered to act as a friend to get them into the event.

This will not be tolerated and will result in the attendee being ejected from the event. Not only could this void our insurance, but could also see the convention being shut down prematurely by the Hilton. More seriously, it would place the attendee in question responsible for a minor that they do not know or have any legal responsibility for and this is something that we can not allow.

Dealers

For dealers, we must ask that you limit all of your items for sale either on your table, underneath, or on any display units you may have behind your table. If you do not feel that the space you have will cover all of the stock that you bring, please book another table.

Tables should also **not** be selling any illegal products. This includes (but is not limited to) bootleg/knock-off toys, fan-made CDs containing episodes (including fan dubs), CD-ROMs with scans of comics, or similar items. Please note that this also applies to videos

and DVDs. All titles on sale must be UK certificated and official UK products. If in doubt, please talk to one of our committee before putting these on display for sale.

Non-Region 2 DVDs can only be sold if they are part of a toy and can not be separated such as the 10th Anniversary Beast Wars toys or Japanese release toys that have come packaged with DVDs.

We have a policy in place for Auto Assembly regarding Third Party products and we will discuss this directly with dealers and you will all be provided with a copy of this and our official policy is also available to download from the Auto Assembly website.

Age Restricted Products

Some toys and other items that will be on sale at Auto Assembly 2015 will not be sold to attendees under the age of 18. Toys manufactured / released in America and Europe have to pass rigorous safety tests before they can be released and are subsequently awarded a "CE Mark". Imported toys from Japan have not undergone this testing and as such, are sold by dealers / sci-fi stores in the UK as collectables intended for the adult market.

There will be two age limits in place at Auto Assembly 2015 in relation to the sale of toys. Import toys are only to be sold to those aged 14+ and for the purpose of Auto Assembly these are being classed as "collectibles". Third Party Toys, on the other hand, are restricted to attendees aged 18+.

This tougher convention policy will ensure that we can *safely* restrict the sale of goods to minors and this rule will also apply to the sale of Third Party products which will also be restricted to adult collectors.

Please do not abuse this or attempt to get an adult to purchase items on your behalf. If you attempt to use someone else's pass to fraudulently purchase items then you **and** that person could face ejection from the convention and please do not be offended if a dealer requests for some form of proof of age if needed.

We do appreciate that many of our younger attendees may feel frustrated over this tighter restriction compared with retail and online traders but we have to adopt a policy that can be applied to all attendees without any form of confusion setting in.

Displays

Over the years we have had tens of thousands of pounds worth of toys and merchandise, and one-off pieces of irreplaceable artwork being displayed in our display area and that of the other displays. Please do NOT touch the display unless it specifically states so. Many of these are rare items and are difficult if not impossible for us to replace.

Fan Buying / Selling / Trading

We are aware that fans use conventions to get rid of unwanted items from their collections or trade with other fans. However, as we're sure you can understand, anything like this on a large scale won't make the dealers too happy! If you have pre-arrange a couple of sales with people in advance of Auto Assembly, this is fine. If you are planning on trading items, as long as **no money** changes hands this will be okay, but please try to keep this to the bar area unless you are making a specific trade with a dealer.

If you do wish to bring your unwanted items to sell, then you can make use of our Fan Sales Table.

Bar Trading

We have been made aware that in the past some people have used the Hilton's bar area for small-scale trading both in terms of toy and merchandise sales and by fan artists taking commissions.

We can not stress enough that selling / trading of this nature can only take place at the convention in authorised areas, namely the dealers room. Our agreement with the Hilton only permits trading of any nature to take place within the confines of the function rooms that we have booked for the use of the

convention and the Hilton itself does not allow trading in any public area other than for hotel-related transactions such as food and drink and in the hotel's gift shop.

Anyone found to be trading in this way will be asked to cease immediately and may - at the Hilton's or the convention's discretion - be asked to leave the convention / the hotel premises.

Should you wish to sell / trade at Auto Assembly in any capacity, please contact us regarding the availability and pricing of dealers tables.

Food / Drink

We would ask that you try not to carry food and drink around in the main event area, unless you are one of our event staff, guests or dealers to avoid spills on dealers tables and any accidents! If you wish to eat, we would recommend using one of the hotel's bars (where you can also order food) which are offering Auto Assembly attendees a discount on bar prices, or use one of the hotel's restaurants. The bars will be open serving drinks throughout the weekend (and we will have a dedicated bar in the King's Suite on the Saturday evening).

Because of its on-site restaurants and catering, please note that food and drink purchased from outside should **not** be brought into the Hilton and eaten in the public areas although you may do so **only** for consumption in your hotel room.

Please note that if you are found to be doing this, then you may be ejected from the convention.

Drinks served in the Hilton's Lounge Bar will be available at a discount throughout the convention weekend on presentation of your convention pass.

Swerves

Our dedicated food court, Swerves, will be making a return for the use of all attendees offering a range of affordable food and drink throughout the convention weekend. Please

note that anything purchased in here can not be taken into the main convention rooms, nor can you take your own food and drink purchased elsewhere into Swerves for consumption.

Guests - Autographs

All of our guests will be happy to talk to fans and sign autographs throughout the weekend. However, please respect their need for personal space and if they are eating or wandering around outside the event rooms etc, please do not expect them to stop what they are doing to sign autographs. Also, please do not ask any of them for autographs away from the guest area.

Also, because of the sheer number of people who now attend the convention we are now having to set a maximum limit of **TWO** autographs per attendee per guest. With almost 1,000 fans attending the convention in 2014 and more expected for 2015, this means that our guests could be asked to sign well over 2,000 autographs each over the course of the weekend which is an astonishing number of signatures to give. While we know that many of you would love to have your entire Marvel comic collection signed or all of your DVDs autographed, it's not fair on the other attendees wanting autographs.

Guests - Sketches

Similarly, we are setting a limit with our comic artists of **ONE** sketch per artist per attendee. While many of our artists would be quite happy to keep sketching as long as people want them, it can prove very tiring and when some will be queuing for several hours to get a single sketch it's not fair when there may be some people in front getting several.

Over on the Auto Assembly Forum we are setting up a pre-order system so guests can produce sketches in advance for collection at the convention and we will be encouraging as many of our comic guests as possible to make use of this to allow you to guarantee your sketches and help the artists free up their time over the weekend.

Signs / Posters

Throughout the convention you'll see a number of signs and posters about Auto Assembly. Under NO circumstances should these be removed and taken away as souvenirs of the convention.

In the past we have had a large number of signs taken by people that we have used since the first Auto Assembly. If you want to take any of these as a memento, then you **MUST** have clearance from Simon or Billy.

Weapons Policy

Something that most sci-fi conventions seem to apply is a weapons policy. While we know that fans are not going to be running around with replica swords etc. there are a few points we'd ask you to bear in mind. If you have any toys with you that resemble weapons (for example G1 Megatron), please ensure that you do **NOT** carry these around outside of the event rooms unless kept in packaging or in a bag. There may be non-attendees in the hotel, and as you can imagine, they won't appreciate people carrying what they might perceive as real weapons!

Similarly, it goes without saying that such toys should not be carried openly outside of the hotel. The NEC complex does have regular police and security patrols and we don't think they'd see the fun side of replica weapon Transformers!

Finally, if you have any toys with sharp edges or points, please do not walk around the hotel carrying them in your hands. It's all too easy for accidents to happen. Also, if you have any toys that fire projectiles of any type, please either leave the missiles at home, or at the very least, don't use the firing mechanisms while you're at the convention.

Smoking

British fans will be aware of it, but for those of you travelling from outside of the UK, we would like to stress that - since 2007 - it has been illegal to smoke indoors in a public place and as such Auto Assembly 2015 is a

no-smoking event. If you wish to smoke, then you will need to go outside of the hotel.

Anyone found smoking within the Hilton (and this also extends to the bar, restaurant or other parts of the hotel) will be asked to leave and could be liable to prosecution.

There are a number of "electronic cigarettes" on the market that are legal to use indoors that act as nicotine substitutes. While many venues / events are happy with these being used, the Hilton has requested that these are not to be used within the main hotel itself. If you wish to use these, then please ensure that it is used outside of the hotel or in your hotel room and not in any public areas.

Illicit Drugs / Substances

While this is something that - to the best of our knowledge - has never been an issue before at Auto Assembly, we want to stress that illegal drugs / substances of any kind are strictly banned at the convention and in the Hilton.

Should you be found to be in the possession of anything or to be using anything within the convention area, or who is at the convention under the influence, or using illegal substances in your hotel room, you will be ejected from the convention, face a **lifetime ban** from Auto Assembly and we will work with the hotel to ensure that you are escorted from the premises.

The police will also be notified and appropriate legal action will be initiated immediately and we will work with other conventions to ensure that they are suitably briefed as well.

Restricted Areas

Finally, there will be some areas of the convention that will be restricted in terms of access. Attendees are not permitted behind the backstage area, AV Desk, Control Desk, Registration Desk or Guest Area **at any time** for any reason during the convention.

Attendees are permitted to pose for photos with voice actors during autograph sessions but are not permitted into the artists area.

Unless you are a committee member, or volunteer you are not to be in any of these areas (or guest in the Guest Area). Equally, for Dealers Tables, **only** Dealers are permitted behind tables except during the set-up and break-down periods while assisting dealers with their tables.

Whether you are invited into a particular area to assist someone or not - even at the request of one of our guests or comic artists - these restrictions **must** be adhered to.

Failure to comply with these regulations could result in the convention's insurance being void and the Hilton exercising its right to cancel the convention. As an event, we are only insured for our own convention staff and volunteers to be in certain organisational areas of the event, and if attendees do so, it puts them and the convention at risk.

USE OF HOTEL FACILITIES

We know that many of you will be arriving at the Hilton a few days before the convention to make your time with us at Auto Assembly into an extended weekend. While we know that you all want to enjoy the weekend as much as possible, please understand that we do not have exclusive use of the Hilton over the convention weekend.

Please bear in mind that while Auto Assembly is a massive event, there will usually be other people in the Hilton itself either staying for business reasons or at other smaller meetings and functions that are taking place, so please bear this in mind while using the hotel's facilities.

Indoor Swimming Pool

The Hilton has an indoor heated swimming pool that is adjacent to its fully-equipped gym and health spa and this is open seven days a week. Please note that this pool is for use by hotel residents only and opening hours for this pool are 6:30 am - 9:30 pm Monday to

Friday and 7:00 am - 9:30 pm Saturday and Sunday. Admission to the pool closes 30 minutes before closing.

The pool is fully staffed with lifeguards and has a dedicated pool for toddlers as well as a jacuzzi. Towels and changing facilities are provided but please be aware that this pool is not for the exclusive use of convention attendees and must be treated like any other swimming pool. Other hotel residents may be using the pool, as may attendees of all ages so please dress / act accordingly.

Alcohol is **not** to be taken into the pool area nor should you attempt to use the pool after you have been drinking for your own safety and the safety of others with you. Please be aware that you may be refused admission to the pool by hotel staff if they feel that you may be a danger to yourself or others.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Charity Tombola

The Charity Tombola will be back again all weekend and you'll be able to find this in its regular home on the Control Desk.

We will have a massive selection of prizes on offer and tickets for this great instant-win tombola will be just £1 each. With a 1 in 10 chance of winning and with well over 100 prizes on offer (we had almost 150 prizes in 2014) it's well worth having a go!

Just pay £1 a go and if any of the tickets you draw from our Tombola drum end in a zero then you win the prize with that matching number! We've already got a selection of comics, toys, DVDs and autographs up for grabs and we're on target for our biggest selection of prizes ever!

If you want to donate anything for the Tombola, please get in touch. However, because of the way this is going to operate, we will need prizes sent to us **at least** three weeks before the convention so we can prepare everything so email us at contact@autoassembly.org.uk with 2015 Tombola in the subject.

Alternatively, just bring the items along with you when you arrive at the convention on the Friday.

We can only accept **new** items as prizes but apart from that, it's entirely up to you! We are looking for comics (new and preferably bagged), DVDs, toys (these must be new and still sealed), books, video games, general merchandise. Items can be small or large - absolutely anything as we will be able to make use of virtually everything sent in to us for the Tombola!

Charity Auction

We are currently looking at our plans regarding our Charity Auction for Auto Assembly 2015. While these have proved popular in the past, it is difficult to get a balance of items that we know will appeal to as many people as possible while still generate as much money as possible for charity.

We are going to be changing the format because our programme for the weekend is getting so packed now we want to maximise the amount that we raise without slowing down the pace of the auction so right now we're looking at running this as a "silent auction" but we'll bring you more on this in an update.

We're also looking for donations - autographs, original comic artwork, rare and unusual items and much more. If you can help out, please get in touch.

We will update this guide and the website with more information on our charity fundraising plans and what we will be doing in relation to the charity auction this year.

Our Charity

We'll be announcing the charity that we will be supporting for Auto Assembly 2015 very shortly. We're really hopeful that we will be able to beat the staggering £2,000 that we managed to raise for Mary's Meals in 2014 with your help!

FAN SALES TABLE

Our Fan Sales Table will be located near the other Dealers Tables and this will give all of you the chance to sell your unwanted items in a safe, controlled environment with minimal effort!

You can use this table to sell anything (although please understand that priority will be given to items that are Transformers related). However you can not bring unauthorised copies of DVDs, CDs, etc, knock-off toys, import DVDs etc.

Simply bring your items to the desk and name your asking price. We are revising the system from the last couple of years and full details of this - along with the selling terms and conditions - will be available to download from the Auto Assembly website.

Once dropped off, we'll put your items on sale for you. You can check back at any time during the weekend to claim your money, alter your selling prices or even withdraw your items from sale. Please note that 20% commission will be taken from the sale of each item towards convention funds.

The sales table will be running from Friday evening right through to Sunday although Friday will be for dropping off of items **only**.

THE AUTO ASSEMBLY TEAM

We have an incredible strong team behind the scenes here at Auto Assembly helping to make sure that you have the best convention possible all weekend. At the heart of this is our core committee who are working hard all year round overseeing all of the key areas of the event to make sure that everything is ready prior to the weekend itself. Over the weekend, you'll be able to spot us hapless souls by our black or white committee t-shirts.

But we couldn't do it at all without our fantastic support team and you'll see them running around all weekend making the event happen. Our volunteers (or red shirts as we love to call them) are the people who really

matter to us. They are the real backbone of the convention and you'll find them everywhere from supporting different events and activities over the weekend, manning the Fan Sales Table, and you'll see many of them on the Registration Desk when you arrive.

None of them are paid to help out at Auto Assembly but they all do an incredible job in ensuring that the convention runs smoothly and we're sure that you'll join us in thanking them for all the hard work that they put in.

All our team will be on hand all weekend to answer any of your questions or to help out in any way possible.

However, as with all of you, we do want to try to enjoy as much of the convention as possible after spending the last 12 months putting the event together and for our volunteers spending a lot of time on their feet throughout the convention, so we will all have different duty shifts and "off duty" periods. If you see our team wearing their t-shirts then they will be on duty so feel free to approach them about anything to do with the convention. However, if they are **not** wearing their convention t-shirts then it is their *personal* off-duty time to relax with their friends and family.

We would ask you all to please respect this so everyone can enjoy the convention.

THE GOODIE BAG

Our Goodie Bag is making a return for Auto Assembly 2015 and it's set to be packed with a range of free gifts for all of you and without giving anything away yet, we're aiming to make this one a real corker! All of the gifts will be included for everyone so you'll all get identical bags but - because of the nature of the contents and different ticket types we are offering - bags won't be given out to Under 6s.

There will be a full list on the website of what is available but there will be at least FOUR exclusive postcards, the latest issue of The Cybertronian Times, the 2015 Auto Assembly convention exclusive comic and much more!

We're already talking to various sponsors to try to secure some special items for the packs as well as working on some ideas in-house to make this something pretty unique.

To collect your bag, just go along to the Registration Desk when you arrive and you'll be handed your Bag along with your Convention Pass.

For those of you who run businesses and want to get involved with the Goodie Bag, we are looking for additional sponsors who are interested in helping us offer more gifts to our attendees. Whether you are able to supply Transformers-related items in bulk for us to give away, if you want to fund the printing of one of our exclusive postcards, or if you just want to advertise in the convention magazine or comic, please get in touch as soon as possible!

ACTIVITIES

We're going to pack so much in to the weekend that you probably won't be able to see and do everything!

The main part that many of you will be coming along for will be to buy toys and there will be dealers from all over the UK attending selling everything you could possibly imagine but Auto Assembly is much more than just a dealers hall...!

Please remember that the Friday and Saturday evening programmes are **exclusive** to weekend attendees so if you want to take part in these, you must be booked up for the whole convention.

Guests

We have a great lineup of confirmed guests for Auto Assembly 2015 although we're keeping quiet about most of these right now. Just keep checking the website as well as our Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr accounts as we reveal them over the coming months.

However, we are being joined by two of the cast of Transformers: Prime - Sumalee

Montano (the voice of Arcee) and James Horan (the voice of Wheeljack)!

Many of our regular comic guests will be making a return along with some new faces and as always, all of our guests will all be on hand to meet fans in our Guest Area to sign autographs and most of them will take to the stage for Q&A panels at different points during the weekend. If you want to see **all** of the Q&A Panels then you'll need to be with us for the whole convention though...

Many of the artists will have original artwork and prints for sale and will be doing sketches for fans for a small charge so here's your chance to grab an original piece of artwork!

Guest Talks

There will be another great mix of guest panels taking place over the weekend with something for everyone - covering comics, the cartoon shows and much more besides! All of our voice actors will take to the stage for their own Q&A sessions and our comic guests will be involved in specially-themed panels on the Saturday and Sunday.

Toy Display

We've had quite elaborate toy displays at the convention over the last few years and we're hoping that 2015 will be no different. We're going to keep things as something of a surprise for now though but keep an eye on the website for more details...

Workshops

We have a lot of workshops lined up for Auto Assembly 2015 and we'll be announcing these shortly. What we can say right now is that we are expecting some more art workshops from some of our guests and some **brand new** workshops never seen before at the convention!

For the creative types amongst you, if you have any ideas for any workshops that you'd like to see or if you want to run one yourself, please get in touch and we'll see what we can do!

SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME

Live Script Reading

Our voice actors will be taking to the stage on Saturday night to perform a specially-written script LIVE! And who knows, a few lucky attendees may *just* get the chance to join our voice actors on stage!

Pub Quiz

Want to test your knowledge of Transformers? We'll be pitting teams of fans against each other in a series of rounds of the Auto Assembly 2015 Pub Quiz throughout the night and there are prizes on offer for the winning team!

Music

We've got one or two things lined up but we won't say just yet what this is going to be... Over the years we've had two live bands, an acoustic performance from Garry Chalk, karaoke including performances from some of our guests, a disco and more so you'll have to wait and see to find out what 2015 has in store!

Cosplay Parade

Again, part of the Saturday evening programme, will be the official costume competition where all our entrants will be showing off their costumes in front of our celebrity judges!

2014 had some of the best entries we have ever seen at the convention and with fans already working on their costumes we think that 2015 could be even better. This could be one of the highlights of the whole weekend!

FAN AREA

While this is something that has been in different parts of the convention hall in previous years, for Auto Assembly 2015 we'll be bringing all of this together in one focused zone and here will be displays from various Transformers fan sites and fan organisations

from all over the UK. If you want to know anything about Transformers, these will be the guys to speak to! Some will have fanzines and other fan-produced items for sale as well so go along and see the best of UK Transformers fandom!

Represented as always will be Transmasters UK (who will no doubt be producing fanzines exclusively for the convention as they have in previous years) and Transformers@TheMoon who will be overseeing our stunning Toy Display.

We'll also be looking at other ways that this area can celebrate the diversity of Transformers Fandom and we'll be open to all of your thoughts and suggestions on this.

There will also be a number of forums running meets during the weekend and if you want to run an event or meet for your forum just let us know and we can arrange something for you!

There will also be a number of Transformers podcasts being recorded live over the weekend from the convention - who knows what you may find going on!

DEALERS

We've got more dealers than ever appearing at Auto Assembly 2015 offering a stunning range of toys and assorted merchandise between them. No matter what you're after - from rare G1 items right up to Transformers Prime, including toys, books, videos, DVDs, comics - you're bound to find something that will interest you!

On the Auto Assembly Control Desk, we will have a selection of items on offer including back issues of our convention magazine and other convention merchandise at clearance prices so come along and grab a bargain!

VOLUNTEERING

For Auto Assembly to be as successful as possible, we're going to need YOUR help!

We are always looking for volunteers to join our fantastic team to help out on the weekend (and the night before and even in the run-up to the event) and we're asking for your help!

There are a lot of ways that many of you can get involved and although they won't take up much time during the weekend, it would have a massive impact on Auto Assembly and we'd be eternally grateful! While we won't be able to pay anyone for helping out, all our volunteers will get a limited edition volunteer t-shirt, early access to the convention and depending on the amount of time you are willing to give to helping out at Auto Assembly 2015, discounts on admission or even free passes to Auto Assembly 2016 amongst other great benefits!

We will have access to the hotel from noon on Friday so if you can be there from then it would be a massive help to us and our dealers for setting up and everything else!

For more information see the form on the website. If you can help, please complete it and email it to us as soon as possible!

COMPETITIONS

Auto Assembly 2015 is going to see our biggest and best range of competitions ever at the convention with most of our old competitions making a welcome return and they'll be open to attendees of all ages. Entry forms for all of these can be downloaded from the website shortly, along with more detailed information on each of them.

Some will be open over the weekend only and all you will need to do is just turn up and take part but there will be something for everyone to be able to get involved with!

Kitbash and Customising Competition

Yes, it's back! We want to see your creativity on show here so we want to see your examples of kitbashing and how you have customised your own Transformers. Whether it's a basic repaint or a complete

customisation or modification, we want to see what you can do!

Costume Competition

Cosplay has become incredibly popular at sci-fi, anime and gaming conventions for a long time now, and they've become a regular part of Auto Assembly for the last few years. Following the incredible Cosplay Competitions we have had over the last few years we want to see if anyone can go better than the incredible costumes we saw last time.

Whether you come as an Autobot or Decepticon, Predacon or Maximal, human or humanised version of a robot we don't care - we just want to see your creations... 2013 saw our first ever transforming costume, 2014 saw a mechanised outfit so who knows what 2015 will bring...?!

Fiction Competition

Fancy turning your hand to creative writing? Articles or fiction, long or short, we want to see what you can come up with!

Art Competition

We know how many great fan artists there are out there in the Transformers fan community and we want to showcase as much of this at Auto Assembly. We're looking for artwork for our 2015 Art Competition across a range of categories and we want some of you to help design our postcards too.

Fan Video Competition

We've all seen the fan-made videos on Youtube, whether they are clips edited together in the form of music videos, stop-motion animations, CGI animated shorts or even fan spoof re-dubs of episodes but now we want to see YOUR creativity when it comes to videos!

We want to showcase your work at Auto Assembly 2015 and as long as it's family friendly (afterall, we'll be showing these on screen in front of all our attendees), and no more than 5 minutes in length, let your

imagination run wild! We'll have entry forms and the full rules available on the website to download shortly.

Comic Competition

Once we have this worked out, we're also hoping to run a competition for all you budding comic authors out there. Whether it's a single page strip or a 4 or 5 page short story, we'll be looking for complete stories for this competition!

Others

We will also be running a few competitions for those of you who are more creative and these will be announced on the website shortly.

CONTACT US

You can contact us at any time by emailing us at: contact@autoassembly.org.uk or visit our forum at www.autoassembly.org.uk/forum where we will be able to answer any of your questions or comments online. we also have a presence on most major Transformers forums so keep an eye out for us there too!

Finally, you can ring us on 07860 948296 during normal office hours, Monday to Friday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm, GMT).

For all the latest event news and updates, see the website at

www.autoassembly.org.uk

We're looking forward to seeing you all at the convention from 21st-23rd August 2015

Auto Assembly 2015 Attendee Information Pack

**First Edition
10th November 2014**

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